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# PRAYERS

FOR

# THE USE OF FAMILIES.

CHARLES WATSON, D.D.,

LATE MINISTER OF BURNTISLAND.

FOURTEENTH EDITION.

EDINBURGH: WILLIAM OLIPHANT AND CO.

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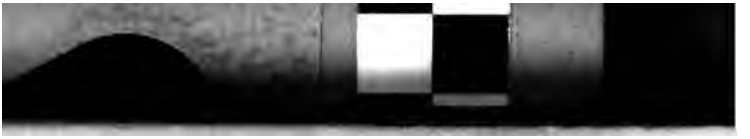

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# PREFACE.

THE following prayers were written by the Author for the use of his own family, under circumstances that left him no choice as to the mode of conducting its devotions. They are now presented to the public in the hope that they may be useful to a numerous class of persons: who, though impressed with the obligation of family religion, are indisposed, from various causes, to employ language of their own in their social approaches to the Divine throne.

Being written with an immediate view to use, these prayers, it is hoped, will be found to partake little of the formal character of compositions. The Author's aim has been to express devotional sentiment in simple and scriptural language: he has laboured to avoid the error to which there are too many temptations, of allowing prayer to run into didactic meditation and discourse; and he has endeavoured, as far as was consistent with a due regard to brevity and variety, to include, in the daily devotional exercises of the family, whatever may be considered as most appropriate to personal and social prayer.

Although the volume is intended as a help to those who prefer the use of forms in family devotion, the

Author cannot but embrace the opportunity which the publication of it affords, of saying something with a view to recommend the opposite practice. He is aware that the self-possession and ready command of thought and language which are requisite to render prayer, without a form, easy and edifying, are not enjoyed by all Christians in an equal degree. He would not, therefore, be supposed to urge upon all a practice which, some may be aware from experience, they cannot undertake with satisfaction and advantage. The whole he would entreat of Christians in general, is to make the attempt, and not to be deterred from some considerable perseverance in it, by difficulties at the outset. Few things are easy at first; and however constrained and embarrassed the head of a family may be, in his early attempts to express devotional feeling in the presence of his household, he may be assured that his greatest difficulties are encountered in the first stages of the experiment. As in other matters, so also here, proficiency can be expected only as the result of frequent essays and patient endeavours.

At no time, perhaps, is it proper to engage in a protracted act of social prayer, without some degree of self-recollection and premeditation. The beginner, therefore, will avail himself of the help of previous consideration, greater or less as he feels the necessity for it, of the topics on which he is to enlarge. As the reading of the Scriptures is usually conjoined with prayer, the passage of Scripture which is to form the morning or evening lesson in the family, will furnish him with heads of illustration, by the judicious use of

which, and of Scripture language and allusion in general, he will be enabled to give an agreeable variety to the character of the service, and be spared the necessity either of repeating the same petitions day after day, or of drawing upon his invention for new forms of expression and original trains of devotional sentiment.

Other helps there are, of a less intellectual but of a still more availing character. Prayer in the family differs but by the trifling circumstance of publicity, from prayer in the closet; it is the same Great Being that is addressed; the same sins that are deplored; the same wants that are expressed; the same mercy and grace that are sought. Let the master of a family, then, in calling his household together, solemnize his mind, by reflecting on the seriousness of the exercise in which he and they are to engage. Let him think of the Presence he is to invoke; let him meditate on the guardian energy, which, in his own and in his family's behalf, he is to solicit: let him humble himself in the dust, by reflecting on his littleness, his dependence, his depravity. In the thought of God, of the Saviour, of the soul, of salvation, and of eternity, with its boundless immensity of interests and of duration, let him lose sight of the trivial causes of ordinary distraction and embarrassment. By these means, and, above all, by humble entreaty for 'the spirit of grace and of supplications,' whose aid he has reason to know is as real, as a confiding belief in it is consolatory, he may reckon on attaining a state in which he can scarcely fail to approach the Divine throne, and express his own and his family's thanksgivings, con

fessions, and petitions, in an appropriate and edifying manner.

If it be asked, why urge prayer without a form, when, by having recourse to forms, the principal objection, in some minds, to the exercise will be removed, the Author has only to say, that he cannot bring himself to think that a man is entitled to call in help to assist him in a duty which a little pains will enable him to discharge for himself; and, if a farther reply be required, he has only to add, that of the two ways of performing the duty of family worship, the question, which is to be preferred, will scarcely be entertained but by those who have not made a fair trial of both.

It is possible this volume may fall into the hands of some who have not previously thought of the duty of family worship. To such persons he would say a very few words. If religion be a subject to be introduced at all into domestic intercourse, he does not see how the consequence can be avoided, that its introduction should be attended by the solemnities and sanctions of regular acts of devotion. Indeed, on the supposition stated, he does not see how these acts of devotion will not follow as a matter of course—as a natural expression of the feelings which a sense of religion, and any degree of serious converse on it, will spontaneously produce. A parent, who wishes well to his offspring, cannot but lead the conversation, from time to time, in the track of religion: he cannot but be impressed with the propriety of making religion a part of the education of his children; he cannot but feel that the best service he can render them is to

make them wise towards God, and for eternity. Thus impressed he must do violence, as well to the best affections of his nature, as to the convictions of conscience, and a prudential regard to the best means of accomplishing his object, if he stop short at instruction, and fail to commend the young under his charge, to the care and mercy of Him who alone can bless them effectually and eternally.

In the same way he must feel, with regard to the other members of his household. His servants and dependents look up to him, in some measure, for the formation of their character, and the preservation of their principles; and to keep religion out of view in his intercourse with them, is to turn them over, so far as lies with him, to influences directly hostile to their best interests. In their case, indeed, the argument for family worship acquires a strength which it does not possess in the instance of those, whose nearer relation brings them into closer and more familiar contact with the head of the family; since, if not summoned to take part in some specific and daily act of religious observance, they have no other opportunity, so far as their place in the family is concerned, of hearing anything on the subject of religion.

The truth is, no one possessed of real religious principle will, after giving the subject the least consideration, be disposed long to hesitate, as to the course that ought to be pursued in relation to religious observances in the family. As the first impulse of the renewed mind in regard to itself, is to 'arise and go to its Father,' the first wish of the same mind in rela-

tion to others, must be to carry them along with it; that, where it has found relief and satisfaction, they may find the same blessings also. Religion in the family is only the fruit and the index of religion in the closet and religion in the heart; and, he who knows what it is in his own person to enjoy the favour and grace of God, will feel that it is as much his privilege as his duty, to engage in exercises which directly tend to bring his children and dependents within the sphere of all he most wishes for them, in time and through eternity.

## ADVERTISEMENT TO THE FOURTEENTH EDITION.

In this Edition several important alterations have been made. An additional two weeks' course (the seventh and eighth), taken from another work by the Author, has been introduced; considerable additions have been made to the number of the Occasional Prayers; while the whole work has been carefully revised, and endeavours have been made to adapt the length of each prayer to the ordinary requirements of Family Worship. A few short Introductory Prayers, and some paragraphs for Special Occasions, which may be used, when required, along with the regular Morning or Evening Services, have also been introduced. In going through the volume, the reader will easily be able to mark prayers suited to occasions of Thanksgiving, Seasons of Affliction, Sickness, etc., in addition to those to which distinctive titles are prefixed.

Edinburgh, *October* 1860.

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# FAMILY PRAYERS.

## Prayers

To be used at the commencement of Family Worship, before engaging in Praise or reading a portion of Scripture.

### I.

O LORD, our Father Which art in Heaven, we would draw near to Thee as children to a father. We know not the things which we should ask, but Thou knowest. Supply all our need, not according to our asking, but according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus, for Whom we bless Thee. Amen.

### II.

O Lord, with Whom is the preparation of the heart and the answer of the tongue, prepare us now for waiting upon Thee in the exercises of Thy worship. Collect our scattered thoughts, control our wayward imagination, elevate our conceptions and enlarge our hearts, and help us to present an offering in right-

eousness, while we call upon Thy name, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## III.

O Lord, Thou hast given us exceeding great and precious promises, help us now to plead them in Thy presence and to believe that we shall have the petitions which we ask through the worthiness of Jesus Christ, in Whom all Thy promises are Yea and Amen.

## IV.

O Lord, Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins of the children of men. Prepare our hearts for waiting upon Thy glorious Majesty, with minds free and disengaged from worldly thoughts, slavish fears, and whatever might intercept the ascent of our souls to the throne of Thy glory. May we now worship in Thy presence, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## V.

O Lord, without faith it is impossible to please Thee; we would believe that Thou art, and art the rewarder of all them that diligently seek Thee; and with true hearts and in full assurance of faith, we would now present our supplications and services, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## VI.

O Lord, Who hast given us Thy Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; remove the natural darkness of our minds, that in Thy light we may see light clearly, and beholding Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, we may have access with confidence into Thy presence, while we now attempt to worship Thee. Amen.

## VII.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, Who givest good gifts to them that ask Thee, implant Thy fear in our hearts, and shed abroad Thy love, that with collected thoughts and quickened desires, we may now worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## VIII.

O Lord, Who hast given us Thy Word, and promised us Thy Spirit, fulfil in us Thy gracious promise, that we who, without Thee, can do nothing, may, by Thy grace at this time, offer unto Thee a spiritual sacrifice, acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## IX.

O Lord, Thou art now saying unto us, 'Seek ye My face;' let our hearts reply unto Thee, 'Thy face, Lord, will we seek.' Hide not Thy face from us, but do Thou, Who didst at first command light to shine out of darkness, shine into our minds, to give us the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, for Whom we bless Thee. Amen.

## X.

O Lord, Thou art a Spirit, and they that worship Thee must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Prepare our hearts for waiting upon Thee with the preparation which cometh from Thee only. Deliver us from the bondage of fear and the guilt of formality, and let all we do be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## XI.

Aid us now, blessed God, in our attempts to serve Thee. Thou givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might Thou increasest strength. Weak in ourselves, we look up to Thee for help. Perfect that which concerneth us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## XII.

Open our eyes, O God, we beseech Thee, that we who by nature are darkness, may become light in the Lord. Strengthen our feeble faith, that the things which are hidden from us by nature, may be spiritually revealed to our conviction, sanctification, and salvation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## XIII.

O Lord, we know nothing, and can do nothing, of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of Thee, and our hope is in Thee. Make Thy grace sufficient for us, and help us to offer unto Thee the sacrifices of righteousness, while we call upon the name of the Lord, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## XIV.

O Lord, Who hast taught and commanded us in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests known unto Thee, graciously grant unto us Thy blessing, and the effectual help of Thy Holy Spirit, while we read Thy Word and approach Thee in prayer, that our services at this time may be to Thy glory and our everlasting good, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father Which art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.

# First Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we come before Thee this day as Thy children and servants, to renew the surrender of ourselves to Thee, and to acknowledge that we are wholly Thine. Fill our minds, we beseech Thee, with a deep and reverential sense of Thy greatness, and enable us to worship Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

On this the morning sacred to the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, we desire to remember and to acknowledge our obligations to redeeming love. We give thanks to Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst look upon us in mercy, in our low and lost estate as sinners. And we bless Him Who came in the name of the Lord to save us. We give thanks to the eternal Son of the Father, Who did not despise nor abhor our misery, but bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, and in His love and in His pity did redeem us. Eternal thanks be to Him, Who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. And Thee also, would we magnify and bless, O Spirit of the most high God—holy and eternal—proceeding from the Father and the Son. We adore Thee as the Spirit of all grace, Who took part in the councils of peace, and did rest on the Saviour, replenishing Him

with immeasurable gifts and graces, whereby, as the Mediator of the new covenant, He became infinitely qualified for the work of our redemption. We bless Thee as the Spirit Who did speak by the prophets, and Who, through them, and in these last days through the apostles, did minister unto us the things which the angels desire to look into. And now we bless Thee, that, as the Spirit of promise, Thou art nigh to all the children of God, dwelling in their hearts as in a temple, imparting to them a resemblance to Thine own perfections, applying to them in all its fulness the salvation of the Gospel, separating them from this present evil world, and conforming them to the purpose of God, in calling them by Jesus Christ to His eternal kingdom and glory.

And, while thus we bless and praise Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God, we humbly pray Thee to accept the throne of our hearts, and to reign supreme over our affections, our principles, and our desires. Extend over the whole sphere of our inner man the sceptre of Thy sovereign grace. Thou art our Father, our Benefactor, our Redeemer, our God. We are the creatures of Thy power, the charge of Thy providence, the subjects of Thy government, the children of Thine adoption. Make us also, we pray Thee, Thy willing and obedient people.

For this end, bless to us the sacred services of this day. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Raise our minds above the cares and concerns of this present life; and enable us to look, not at the things which are seen, but at the

things which are not seen, remembering that the things which are seen are temporal, while the things that are not seen are eternal. May the endeavours of Thy people this day to serve Thee be accompanied with Thy blessing. Especially may Thy Word in the hands of Thy ministering servants be quick and powerful in the experience of all who hear it. Hasten the time when the Gospel shall everywhere be published. Let every obstacle to its universal diffusion be removed. Let the crooked be made straight, and the rough places plain: and let the glory of the Lord be revealed, and let all flesh see it together. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

Blessed, O Lord, is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts. We thank Thee that we have this day been permitted to enjoy this privilege. May the services in which we have engaged leave a sanctifying impression behind them; and may we experience, during the course of the coming week, the influence of ordinances, which Thou Thyself hast appointed, and through which Thou hast promised to meet with Thy people, and to do them good. Under the trials with which we may be visited, may the consolations of the truths we have been hearing sustain

and delight our souls. When pressed by temptation, may we remember the warnings of Thy Word, and fear to offend; when burdened by a sense of infirmity and weakness, may we remember the promises of Thy grace, and be encouraged to run with patience the race that is set before us.

We beseech Thee, gracious God, to forgive whatever Thy pure eye hath this day seen amiss in our attempts to serve Thee. Our own hearts condemn us. With shame and sorrow we confess a wandering mind in Thy service, an unfixed attention while listening to Thy Word, an absence of those pure and elevated feelings which ought to characterize our devotions, a want of singleness of heart and of godly sincerity in our approaches to Thy throne. Mercifully overlook and pardon what Thou hast seen offensive in the state and posture of our souls this day. Let not sin interpose its shadow between our souls and Thee; but graciously look upon us in the face of Thine Anointed; and, while Thou forgivest our sins, send Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, to withdraw us from the influence of those habits and sinful tendencies, which we have this day experienced, and which we now deplore.

We pray for abundant success to accompany the labours of all Thy servants. Among the young, especially, may the power of the Gospel be felt and displayed. May the places of Thy people, who are called to leave the world, be filled by a fresh generation of faithful, active, zealous disciples, who, in their turn, shall transmit to the generation following the praises of the Lord our God.

Let not Thy word, in any case, return to Thee void. While it teaches the young and the inexperienced how to purify their way, may it not knock in vain at the heart of the aged, and of those who have been long hardened in the ways of sin. May they who have longest resisted its authority, and turned a deaf ear to its warning voice, be roused from their lethargy and impenitence. May no force of habit, no strength of passion, no unfavourable influence of circumstances, no length of time spent in the service of sin, have power to hinder the triumphs of Thy Word among all classes and conditions of men. O let it come among its enemies with the power of the Spirit of God. Let it be felt to be the rod of Thy strength which Thou hast sent out of Zion, the sceptre of sovereign and invincible majesty, with which Thou art to rule in the midst of Thine enemies.

Thus, O Lord, carry forward Thine own work; advance Thine own glory: hasten Thine own kingdom: extend the sphere of true religion and the empire of the cross; and bring daily the church and the world nearer the glorious consummation of all things, when the kingdoms of this earth shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever. All that we ask is for Christ's sake. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU That hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. To whom can we go but unto Thee, Who art the source of our life and the length of our days; Who hast all fulness in Thyself, and art the Bountiful Giver of every good and perfect gift.

May we at this time be enabled to approach Thee acceptably, relying on Jesus Christ, through Whom alone we have access with confidence into Thy presence. Iniquities, we confess, prevail against us; but we look up to Thee to take them away. We bless Thee, gracious God, that the blood of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, cleanseth from all sin, and that in Him Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. May the blood of Jesus be applied to our consciences, and may we be justified freely by Thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. May we no longer stand at a distance from Thee as rebels and enemies; but, being reconciled by the blood of the cross, may we be brought nigh as servants and children, and be taught to joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom also we have received the atonement. May a sense of Thy goodness effectually destroy the enmity of our old nature. May we be deeply humbled on account of our sins, which have made a separation between Thee and us; and may the language of our souls be, 'What have we to do any more with idols? we have lived too long to ourselves; too long in the

service of our worst enemy; henceforward, whether we live, we will live unto the Lord; whether we die, we will die unto the Lord: whether we live or die, we will be the Lord's.'

Thus, O Lord, may the Holy Spirit work upon our affections, and bring us into subjection to Thy blessed will. May He remove the veil from our minds, by which the glories of Thy character, and the kindness and grace of God our Saviour, are so imperfectly known to us, and still more imperfectly felt by us. May He afford us new views, impart to us new sensibilities, and incline us to new pursuits. Day by day may we be sensible of the progressive ascendancy of its influence over us, and be gradually removed farther from the dominion of this present evil world, enabled to contend more successfully with every corrupt propensity and passion, strengthened with increasing might for the arduous duties of our Christian profession, and made more and more meet for receiving the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. For this purpose, be pleased to accompany with Thy blessing all the means of grace with which we are favoured. We thank Thee for the opportunity we yesterday enjoyed of entering Thy house, and uniting with our Christian brethren in Thy service. May every good impression then made upon our minds be deepened, every holy resolution confirmed, every wholesome lesson remembered; and may we be enabled, during the course of this day and of this week, to carry much of a Sabbath day's spirit into all the ordinary business and intercourse of life.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to bless all in whom we are interested. Wherever they are, may they be objects of Thy care, subjects of Thy grace, and partakers of Thy bounty.

May Thy church and people throughout the world enjoy Thy favour, and be blessed with increasing spiritual prosperity. Let Thy name be hallowed, O Lord; let Thy kingdom come; and let Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. And all that we ask is in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU Who art the Searcher of hearts, enable us to draw near to Thee with true hearts, and to worship Thee, Who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for our preservation during the past day. In all the events of our daily history, we would recognise the hand of a gracious God. Thine are all our mercies. To Thy liberality we owe them all. And we would lament the blindness that so often fails to perceive the goodness of our Heavenly Father, both in the blessings we are permitted to enjoy, and in the vicissitudes and crosses by which we are tried. Be pleased to pardon the short-sighted and ungrateful returns which we too often make to Thy goodness; and correct our tendency to stop short at second causes. In all that happens around us, and

especially in all that befalls ourselves, teach us to trace Thy wise and gracious Providence. Where, to the eye of the world, nothing may appear but accident or human contrivance, may we see Thee working all things after the counsel of Thy will. And O may a settled persuasion of Thy wisdom and goodness reconcile us to the whole tenor of Thy providential government. May it enhance to us the value of every blessing, and take the sting from every sorrow. Assured that He Who guides us is acquainted with our way, may we trust Him where it is darkest, and follow Him where it is roughest. May His way appear to us a right way; and whether He correct us with His rod, or lead us with His staff, may we alike be satisfied that He doth all things well.

To Thy goodness we commit ourselves during the silence and darkness of the night. To the guidance and guardianship of the Shepherd of Israel we commend ourselves during the future period of our lives. Whether our days be many or few, may they be spent in Thy fear, in the enjoyment of Thy favour, and in the hope of Thy kingdom. O Lord, Thou art wiser than we, do Thou lead us. Thou art stronger than we, do Thou uphold us. Leave us not, we entreat Thee, in any case to ourselves. Our wisdom is but ignorance, our decision but presumption, our strength but weakness. While Thou art with us, we will fear no evil; if Thou forsake us, we are lost—we perish. Guide us by Thy counsel: protect us by Thy power: sanctify us by Thy grace. Accomplish in us all the purposes of Thy good pleasure. Employ us in advanc-

ing Thy glory, and the happiness of one another, on earth; and when we have done and suffered Thy will, receive us at length to Thyself, and satisfy us with Thy likeness for ever and ever.

Nor would we be unmindful in Thy presence of our friends, and of all whom we should remember before Thee. Hast Thou not a blessing, O Lord, for them and for all? Endue them with Thy Holy Spirit: enrich them with Thy heavenly grace. Bestow on them all that is really necessary to their present and future happiness; and bring them to Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ: to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Who art over all, and art rich in mercy unto all that call upon Thee, we approach Thy throne this morning, through that new and living way which Thou Thyself hast consecrated. O may our hearts be engaged in Thy service. May we not present to Thee the offering of the lip, unaccompanied by those affections which Thy goodness should excite, and which Thou requirest in Thy worshippers. Cleanse Thou the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. May He, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, take up His abode within us, and fulfil in us the whole good pleasure of Thy goodness. We give Thee thanks,

gracious God, for any experience we may hitherto have enjoyed of the work of Thy Spirit on our hearts. We thank Thee for any disposition we may feel for Thy service; for any attachment of which we may be conscious to the Gospel of Christ; for any ability to discharge the duties of our respective situations in life as Christians and as members of society, of which we may have given evidence; and for any improvement we may have derived from the afflictions and changes with which we may have been tried. We acknowledge that this is not of ourselves. We trace it, and all the good that may be in us, to Thyself. In ourselves, we are altogether as an unclean thing; and from us, if left to ourselves, we own with humility and contrition, nothing can proceed but evil continually. Thine, O Lord, is all our holiness, all the strength and stability of our Christian character. We owe it all to Thee; we bless Thee for it; and in reviewing and considering it, we would now unite in beseeching Thee to strengthen that which is weak, to animate that which may be ready to die, to correct whatever may be wrong, and to supply whatever may be deficient.

Never, O Lord, let us be betrayed into self-confidence. Amidst our attainments and our progress, let us never forget the rock from whence we are hewn, and the gracious and all-powerful Hand that hath made and fashioned us. Never let us forget that the power by which we have hitherto been upheld is that by which we must still be preserved; that the source from which we have hitherto received is that from which we must still continue to draw; that the arm

which alone can sustain us is that of Omnipotence, and the hand which alone can guide us is that of Divine and infinite wisdom. And while thus in ourselves we feel weak, in Thee may we ever feel strong. Relying on the faithfulness of Thy promises, and the all-sufficiency of Thy grace, may we feel as if our feet were on a rock; and though, if left to ourselves, the number of our enemies might dismay, and the difficulty of our circumstances perplex, and the consciousness of our own infirmity oppress us; yet, trusting in Thee, may we rise above every fear, and offer unto Thee daily sacrifices of joy, singing, yea, singing praises unto Thy name.

Nor would we be unmindful in Thy presence of the necessities of others. To Thy mercy we commend our brethren of mankind. Look in compassion on the sick and the afflicted; supply the wants of the poor: hear the cry of the oppressed, have pity on the captive and the prisoner: and visit with the reviving consolations of Thy grace all such as are appointed to death. To Thy guidance and care we this day commend ourselves and all who are dear to us.

We ask every mercy in the name, and for the sake, of our Lord Jesus Christ. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Thou art God, even Thou alone; Thou hast made heaven and earth.

Incline Thine ear, we beseech Thee, and hear: open Thine eyes, O Lord, and see; and graciously grant, that though in ourselves we are unworthy of Thy regard, in Jesus Christ we may be accepted, and answered, and blessed. For His sake, mercifully forgive all the sins we have this day committed. Make us sorry for our shortcomings and provocations. Teach us to profit by the additional experience which every day affords of the deceitfulness of our own hearts, and of the temptations to which we are exposed; and help us in time to come to be more on our guard against the sins that do so easily beset us, and to exercise a firmer dependence on Him through Whom alone Thy people have their strength renewed, and are made more than conquerors over all their spiritual enemies.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for the renewed tokens we have this day experienced of Thy providential care and goodness. Enlarge our minds with sentiments and feelings corresponding to the benefits we have received. In the enjoyment of temporal mercies, let us not be tempted to forget those which are spiritual and eternal. While partaking of the bread which perisheth, teach us to hunger and to thirst after righteousness. While enjoying the comforts of domestic security, carry our thoughts forward to that building of God, that house not made with hands, which is eternal in the heavens. While thankful that we are preserved from danger in our going out and in our coming in, excite in us a lively solicitude to be kept back from sin. While mingling in society, and sharing its enjoyments, help us to re-

member that we belong to a nobler, though unseen, society; and enable us to walk worthy of our connection with the general assembly and Church of the First-born, and of the spirits of the just made perfect. May all the mercies Thou conferrest upon us, with so liberal a hand, day after day, and night after night, elevate our hearts to Thyself, and induce us to repose in Thee alone, as our only satisfying and abiding portion. O may things temporal be so sanctified as to become our guides to things eternal; may the value we set on the one lead us to conclude how infinitely more valuable are the other; and, while we thankfully receive and suitably employ the gifts of Thy bounty, may the chief desires and longings of our souls be reserved for those blessings which are suited to the nature, adapted to the necessities, and commensurate with the duration of our immortal spirits.

Be with us, we beseech Thee, through this night. If it please Thee, grant us sleep to refresh our bodies and our minds. If awake, may we remember Thee upon our beds, and meditate upon Thee in the night-watches: may our souls follow hard after Thee, and set Thy right hand uphold us. Be bountiful to all our friends. Enrich them with Thy grace. Comfort them under all their trials: and accommodate the supplies of Thy Holy Spirit to their various characters, circumstances, ages, and necessities. Look favourably upon Thy Church and people. Do good, in Thy good pleasure, unto Zion: build Thou the walls of Jerusalem: restore Thine ancient people to their

former place in Thy favour; and with them let the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and when Thou hearest, do thou accept and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Advocate and Mediator, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, in coming into Thy presence this morning, may we remember that Thou art a Spirit, and that they that worship Thee, must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Help us, we beseech Thee, in approaching Thy throne, to stand in awe lest we offend Thee, by presenting ourselves in Thy presence with the appearance merely of humility and devotion. Forbid that any of us should forget Who Thou art, or hope, by our posture or by our words, to satisfy Thee, as if Thou wert a creature like ourselves, capable of being imposed on by empty forms and professions. Thou, O Lord, desirest truth in the inward part: and to Thee do we now come, beseeching Thee to accomplish, in our experience, Thine own promise; to give us a new heart and a right spirit; to take away our hard and stony hearts, and to put within us hearts of flesh; to put Thy laws into our mind, and to write them in our heart; to be to us a God, and to make us in sincerity, and for ever, Thy people.

And grant, O Lord, that thus we may be enabled,

not only to serve Thee faithfully, but to take pleasure in Thy service. May we delight ourselves in Thee: may we regard Thee, not only as our Master and Sovereign, Whom we ought to obey, but as our Father and bountiful Benefactor, Whose goodness we can never sufficiently feel, Whose love we can never sufficiently return, and for Whom we can never do enough. May the native enmity of our hearts be displaced by a constraining sense of the love of God in Christ Jesus; and, under the power of this new and holy principle, may we regard the difficulties in Thy service as nothing, treat with indifference the suggestions of our carnal and sluggish nature, rise superior to the temptations of a world which lieth in wickedness, and not only walk before Thee in a perfect way, but, with happy and enlarged hearts, run in the path of Thy commandments.

Thus, O Lord, let us be cast into the mould, and let us day by day experience more perfectly the influence, of the Gospel of Christ. Sensible that we have nothing of our own, and that we deserve nothing from Thee but Thy displeasure; feeling our obligations to unmerited and abounding mercy; and experiencing daily the peace and hope, the comfort and holy joy, which are the fruit of believing, may we grow from day to day in the grace of cordial and devoted subjection to Thy blessed will, and attain a close resemblance to the image of our Lord, Whose meat and Whose drink it was to do the will of His Father, and to finish His work.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for sparing us

during the past night, and permitting us to see the light and enjoy the comforts of this morning. To Thy past benefits add, we pray Thee, those which are necessary to this day. Give us this day our daily bread. Let Thy gracious Providence defend and direct us, so that we may run into no danger, neither fall into any sin. With ourselves we would be mindful in Thy presence of our friends and relatives, of our brethren of mankind, and especially of the household of faith. Let grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be multiplied abundantly unto them all. And do Thou, Who art able to do for them and for us far more exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, graciously bend Thine ear to the voice of our supplications; and accept of us, and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, enable us this evening to come before Thee, deeply impressed with a sense of Thy majesty and glory. Who is a God like unto Thee? Who among the gods is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

We give Thee thanks that Thou hast made Thyself known to us; and we rejoice that the discovery which Thou hast made of Thy character, is calculated not only to affect us with the profoundest sense of Thy greatness and glory, but to inspire us with filial con-

fidence, and to draw out our affections towards Thee, as our reconciled God and Heavenly Father. We bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who in Him hath been pleased to draw nigh to us in mercy, and to proclaim His name to be the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to wrath, abundant in mercy and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin. We rejoice that this is Thy name, and this Thy memorial throughout all generations. Make us sensible, we pray Thee, of the greatness of our privilege in thus enjoying the means of knowing Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. Knowing Who Thou art, and what Thou hast done for us, and what Thou art willing to become to us in Jesus Christ, may our hard and stony hearts be softened; may our perverse and rebellious wills be subdued; may our wayward desires be controlled, and our earthly affections spiritualized and elevated; and may the principles of Divine grace, implanted by Thy Spirit, produce in us daily more complete conformity to Thy will and image, and a greater meetness for the enjoyments and services of Thy heavenly kingdom.

For this purpose we beseech Thee, gracious God, to work all Thy work upon us, and all our works within us. Accomplish in our behalf Thy gracious promise, and send down Thy Holy Spirit to quicken, to enlighten, to sanctify, to invigorate, to direct, to support, and to save us. May He come down in all the plenitude of His gifts and graces; and though our hearts are most unfit for His reception, and altogether un-

worthy to be made His habitation, may He condescend to purify them by His mighty power, so that they may become temples in which He will not refuse to dwell.

At the close of this day, we desire to bless Thee for all the goodness which Thou hast made to pass before us during it, and ever since we came into the world. Make us thankful for all Thy mercies. Make us wisely observant of the course of Thy daily and ordinary Providence; open our eyes to the goodness which marks all Thy dispensations; and teach us to derive lessons of wisdom, and inducements to fidelity and thankfulness, from whatever befalls ourselves, and from all that is happening in the world around us.

Be with us, we entreat Thee, during this night. Let no danger approach our persons or our dwellings, or the persons and dwellings of those who are dear to us. Grant us such sleep as shall refresh our bodies and our minds. Preserve us, if it please Thee, to see the light of another day. When we awake, may we be still with Thee, alive to Thy goodness, and anxious to devote ourselves with renewed earnestness and sincerity to Thy service.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and accept of us and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou art holy, Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. But we are sinful creatures, fallen

from the station in which Thy goodness placed us, defiled by the abominable thing which Thou hatest, and no longer worthy to be called Thy children. Our sins, O Lord, are many, and great, and highly aggravated. In number, they are more than the hairs upon our head, or than the sand by the sea-shore. In magnitude, they rise even to the very heavens, and exceed in the folly, the rashness, the ingratitude they display, all our conceptions of their demerit and malignity.

We lament, O Lord, that the source of all this is an evil heart—an evil nature. Not only do we fall into the commission of sin, but we carry about with us, in our hearts, the principle of sin. And so powerful is this principle, so predominant its tyranny, so entire and complete its ascendancy, that nothing short of Thine almighty power and sovereign grace can effectually subdue it. Sin, O Lord, we acknowledge with shame and sorrow of heart, is naturally so much our master, that all Thy mercies and all Thy terrors are of no avail to soften our hard hearts and reduce our rebellious wills, unless Thou Thyself interpose, and, by the sovereign exercise of that same mighty power which wrought in Christ when Thou didst raise Him from the dead, quicken us and raise us up together with Him, to walk in newness of life.

We rejoice, gracious and heavenly Father, that this Thou are willing to perform. We rejoice that Thou hast no pleasure in the bondage and degradation of the souls which Thou hast made—no pleasure in beholding the sinner persist in seeking his own

ruin—no pleasure in the spiritual and everlasting death of Thy rational and accountable offspring. We rejoice that it is Thy will even our sanctification, and that so great is Thy love for the creatures who have destroyed themselves, that Thou hast sent Thy Son to bless us, by turning every one of us from our iniquities.

O may Thy will be fulfilled in our behalf, and in our experience. May each one now before Thee be redeemed from the power of sin, reclaimed from the dominion of Satan, brought back from the pursuit of false and mistaken enjoyment, and taught to place his heart and to seek his happiness in God, with Whom is the fountain of life. Let sin no longer appear to any of us what naturally we may have thought it to be. May we see it in its true colours, and feel towards it as an evil and abominable thing, which the Lord hates, and which we can never sufficiently hate. May a desire, not only to avoid it, but to be like God, be begotten within us. May we learn to look upon the remains of sin within us, as marks of our degradation; and may we be fired with a holy ambition, no longer to spend any part of our life, or to devote any of our powers in a service which has filled us with shame, and the wages of which, if persisted in, is death.

Thus, O Lord, accomplish in us, we beseech Thee, the whole good pleasure of Thy goodness. Work in us, by Thy Holy Spirit, both to will and to do. May Thy Spirit sanctify us wholly, in spirit, in soul, and in body. And when Thy purposes with us on earth are finished, present each of us perfect, unblameable,

and unreproveable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, we ascribe all glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Who hast brought us in safety to the close of this day, we desire again to unite in adoring Thy perfections, and in blessing Thy name for all Thy goodness. Thou art good, O Lord, and art ever doing good. Day by day Thou givest us our daily bread; night after night Thou extendest over us the shield of Thy protecting Providence. At all seasons and under all circumstances, Thou art our very present help; smoothing our way where it is rough, comforting us by Thy presence where it is crooked and lonely, opening up for us innumerable sources of satisfaction and refreshment as we proceed, and discovering to us, at the end of our pilgrimage, life and immortality, as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for temporal mercies; but chiefly, we bless and praise Thy name for those which are spiritual and eternal. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. Thanks be unto God, Who hath not spared His own Son for our redemption. Thanks be unto God for a love which exceeds the measure of all created conceptions; which rose not only to the level of our great necessities, but infinitely above them; which brought down Him Who is the

brightness of Thy glory, to the humiliation and death of the cross; and which, having induced Thee to bestow upon us Thy best gift, now prompts Thee to present Him to us freely, and to promise with Him to enrich us with the boundless treasures of Thy sovereign munificence,—with the graces of Thy Holy Spirit here, and the glories of Thy heavenly kingdom hereafter.

This is not the manner of men, O Lord: And sensible how deeply undeserving we are of anything like the treatment we have received at Thy hands, we would lie prostrate before Thee in astonishment and adoration,—lost in contemplation of the exceeding riches of Thy grace, in Thy kindness toward us by Jesus Christ. Though our praises cannot profit Thee, we would never cease to present them; and would never cease to beseech Thee by Thy Spirit to add to their fervour and to heighten their tone, and for the sake of Thy Son our Saviour, benignly to accept of them, as our bounden and willing tribute of thanksgiving.

And while thus, O Lord, we praise Thee with our lips, help us to remember that the devotion of the heart and the obedience of the life are the offerings which Thou requirest of us, and without which the language of gratitude is but mockery and hypocrisy. Kindle, O Thou gracious source of all good, the hallowed flame within us. Touch our naturally cold hearts, as with a live coal from off Thine altar. Feed the fire from day to day, that the feeble spark may not expire. Let the flame within consume every unholy feeling and desire; let it melt the adamant of our nature; let it unseal the

fountains of godly sorrow and devout affection, and cause all the streams of holy and virtuous resolution to flow forth in testimony of our sincerity, and to the honour of Thy name.

May our friends as well as ourselves feel the power of Thy grace upon their hearts, and unite with us in living to Thy praise. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon them. Let His love be seated in their hearts, and His law exemplified in their lives; and let all of them at last be found among His disciples and His friends, when He cometh in His kingdom. To Thy goodness we commit them and ourselves this night. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

Unto Thee, O Lord, Who art the Father of the spirits of all flesh, we this morning come, adoring Thee as the blessed and the only Potentate, worthy to receive all blessing and praise from every creature whom Thou hast made, both in heaven and in earth.

We thank Thee for our preservation during the past night, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we are now permitted to assemble in Thy presence. We might have slept the sleep of death; but Thou hast spared us this morning to be monuments of Thy goodness. Thou hast watched over us while we were unconscious of Thy care; and now, notwithstanding

manifold provocations and much unthankfulness, we are among the living to praise Thee—the living to bear witness to the fidelity of Thy promises and the extent and liberality of Thy goodness. And while thus we bless Thee for protecting and sparing us, and for all the bounties of Thy Providence, we would especially be mindful of what Thou hast done for our souls. We thank Thee that Thou hast remembered us in our low and lost estate, because Thy mercy endureth for ever. We rejoice in the means which Thou hast employed for our restoration to Thy favour; and we magnify the riches of Thy grace, which hath not merely spared and pardoned us, but induced Thee to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

Grant, O Lord, that a sense of Thy goodness may sink into our hearts; under its influence may we be constrained to present to Thee our bodies and our spirits as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable, which is our reasonable service. Let not Thy love, we beseech Thee, be lost upon any of us. Looking upon Him, Who for our sakes humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, may we commit ourselves to Him, that we may be conformed to the design of His death, and may experience, in all its energy and efficacy, the saving power of His endless life. To us believing, may He daily become more precious. May our views of the glory of His person, and the perfection of His character, the value of His sacrifice, the kindness of His love, and the fulness, the freeness, the all-sufficiency, and the suitable-

ness of His redemption, daily become more and more enlarged; and in proportion as we discover in Him and in His salvation, heights and depths that call for our admiration and gratitude, may our experience of His power to save even to the uttermost, undergo a corresponding increase.

May we daily know more and more experimentally of Him in Whom we have believed, and become daily better persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed to Him. Nor let our faith prove merely a comfort to us. May it be an active, powerful, practical principle, leading us at once to abide in Christ and to keep all His commandments. While we grow in knowledge may we also grow in grace, and be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To Thy merciful care we commend onrselves this day. We are not worthy, O Lord, of all the goodness and truth we have experienced during the past period of our lives: but look favourably upon us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and continue to extend to us, and to all who are dear to us, and to all, whosoever they are, whom we should remember in Thy presence, those mercies which our respective circumstances render necessary and suitable. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, though Thou art infinitely exalted above our highest conceptions and praises, we bless Thee that Thou humblest Thyself to behold both the things that are in heaven, and those that are in the earth; and that Thou hast assured us, that wherever two or three are met together in Thy name, Thou wilt be present with them to bless them and to do them good.

We come before Thee at this time, trusting in Thy gracious Word, on which Thou hast caused us to hope; pleading those precious promises, which in Jesus Christ are all Yea and Amen; entreating Thee to have mercy upon us, notwithstanding the offences we have committed; and casting all our care upon Thee, who art full of compassion, and who carest for us.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for our preservation and our comfort during the past day. We bless Thee that we have been permitted to go out and to come in, in safety; and that God, Who commanded the outgoings of the morning, hath also caused those of the evening to rejoice over us. We desire to trace all our mercies up to Thee, the gracious source of every blessing; and to praise and magnify Thy holy name. We pray that a sense of Thy manifold and unmerited goodness may produce a deep and a lasting impression upon our minds; and that in some proportion to our experience of Thy care and kindness, may be the ardour of our gratitude, the sincerity of our repentance, and the diligence and zeal we display in Thy

service. God forbid that we should be of those who receive the bounties of Thy providence only to abuse them; or who remain cold, and thankless, and unprofitable, under a dispensation of constant and varied mercy. Knowing the terror of the Lord, but above all, melted by His goodness and mercy, may we daily endeavour to abound in all the fruits of righteousness, which by Jesus Christ are to His praise and glory; to bring forth not only fruit, but much fruit, that He may be glorified; to walk in all respects as the children of so many mercies; and to testify, to the world and to our consciences, the constraining sense we entertain of what we owe to Him, Whose providence supplies our wants, and Whose mercy saves our souls.

Forgive, we humbly pray Thee, our past unprofitableness and ill desert. Humble us under a sense of our unworthiness. But, while conscious that we are nothing, and deserve nothing, let us not yield to despair. Direct our views, we beseech Thee, to Him Who taketh away the sin of the world, and enable us to rely, with humble but undoubting confidence, on the efficacy of His sacrifice and the perfection of His righteousness, for pardon and peace, for acceptance and eternal life.

In the faith of Him who died for the ungodly, but Who now is exalted a Prince and a Saviour at Thy right hand, we commend our bodies and our spirits to Thy favour and protection this night. Watch over us, and over all who are dear to us. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Who art the hope and confidence of all Thy people, we bless Thee that we are encouraged to put our trust under the shadow of Thy wings; and to look up to Thee as infinitely able and infinitely willing to do to us, and for us, far more exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. We bless Thee for the rest of the past night, the light of this morning, and the many comforts of our condition in life. In the enjoyment of Thy gifts, forbid that we should lose sight of Thee, the Giver of them all. May each of them recall Thee to our grateful remembrance, and excite us to ascend from the streams to the fountain; that in Thee we may find that supreme, increasing, and permanent satisfaction, which it is not intended we should experience in the enjoyment of any portion but Thyself.

And, while this is the effect of Thy temporal mercies, grant that we may especially feel our obligations for spiritual and heavenly blessings. We rejoice in Him Who laid down His life a ransom for many; and for the good hope through Him of a glorious life in the world to come. Believing in Him, we would look up to Thee for the accomplishment of Thy promises made to us in Him. We rejoice that in Christ Jesus all Thy promises are Yea and Amen. And, in the midst of all the dissatisfactions and sorrows of this present life, we would exult in the thought, that the hour is at hand, when all that are in their graves shall hear the

voice of the Son of God; and when they that are His shall be acknowledged by Him at His coming, and shall be admitted by Him, to be with Him where He is, to behold His glory, and to share in His love for ever.

Grant, O Lord, that these convictions and these prospects may support and animate us, while it is Thy will to continue us in this world. Under a persuasion that here we have no continuing city, may we cherish the spirit, and cultivate the habits, and exhibit the deportment, of pilgrims and strangers upon earth. While thankful for the least of Thy mercies, may the thought of the greater mercies we have in prospect, keep our hearts from fixing on anything under the sun. And while we are alive to the afflictions and sorrows with which it may please Thee to try us, may we be so habitually under the influence of the hope of the glory of God, as to reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed.

Forgive, we humbly beseech Thee, the slow progress we have hitherto made, in preparation for the happiness of Thy kingdom. Excite us to greater diligence in time to come. While in the world, may we feel and act as not of it; and may neither the pleasures nor the business, the anxieties nor the enjoyments, of our situation in life, have power to shut out an eternal world from our minds, or to induce us to remit our diligence to be found of Thee at last in peace.

To Thy providence and grace we commend all our friends, and all whom we ought to remember before

Thee. Let grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be multiplied abundantly unto them all. And do Thou hear, and accept, and bless us, for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU, by Whom our souls are held in life from week to week, and from day to day, we approach Thy throne this evening with the voice of thanksgiving and praise. By Thy good hand upon us, we have been protected from danger during the past week; and it is because Thy mercy endureth for ever, that we are not numbered among the many who, like ourselves, saw the beginning of the week, or even of this day, but who are now insensible to all that is doing under the sun.

Help us, O Lord, to remember that the day of life is fast hastening to its close. May the thought that as we are older than we were at the commencement of this week, so also we are nearer to an eternal world, deeply impress our minds. And as we find days and weeks glide silently past, may we be led anxiously to consider what improvement we have made of time which is now lost to us for ever. O let us not indulge in the illusion that puts eternity farther from us, the nearer we approach it; and that induces us to delay preparation for it, till the period when wisdom tells us

preparation may be impossible. Whatever we see to be our wisdom and our duty, may we be solicitous to do, while the opportunity remains to us. O may that activity and solicitude we are accustomed to display in regard to the concerns of this life, be displayed by us in regard to the supremely important concerns of the life to come. Let not souls which are capable of endless happiness or misery, be the only objects which excite no interest, and for which we make no exertion. But may Thy grace prevail over the insensibility and indifference we are but too prone to show to concerns which do not immediately affect our present well-being. Guided by Thy Spirit, may we realize the hour when we shall be withdrawn from all the objects that at present engross us; and with happy forethought, may we resolve and act as if our dying hour were come, and we were about to appear before God in judgment.

To Thy mercy and grace we this evening commend all the members of this family. May each take an affectionate interest in the spiritual prosperity and advancement of the rest; and may we all, in our respective places, and according to our respective opportunities, strive together for the faith and hope of the Gospel. Dwell in the land in which we dwell. Give Thy judgment to the Queen, and Thy counsel to her counsellors. May they who rule, rule in Thy fear; and may they who are subject to authority lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. Supply the wants of the poor, and enrich them with a contented mind. Open the hearts and the hands of those whom Thou hast blessed with abun-

dance; let their stores be for others as well as for themselves. Bind society together by the ties of mutual good will and kind offices. Let judgment dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. Let the work of righteousness be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

O Lord, we lament the effects of sin upon the face of society. But we rejoice that there is a time fixed when these calamities shall cease. Arise, O God, and plead Thine own cause. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered: let them also that hate Him flee before Him.

Now, O Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in Thee: our prayers are before Thee. Take us under Thy merciful protection during this night. Prepare us for the services of Thy day and of Thy house. Satisfy us early with Thy mercy, that our souls may rejoice and be glad in Thee. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

# Second Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

On the morning of this day, O Lord, we come before Thee under a deep sense of Thy manifold goodness. We thank Thee for the privileges of this day, for the hallowed rest it affords us from worldly employments, and for the renewed opportunities it bestows upon us, of uniting with our Christian brethren in Thy worship and service. We bless Thee, gracious God, for the Sabbath day—for all that it commemorates, and for all that it prefigures. We rejoice that on this day, the first day of the week, the Saviour rose from the dead, and by His resurrection was declared to be the Son of God with power.

As risen with Him, teach us to seek those things that are above, where He sitteth at the right hand of God. Looking up to Him, Who is highly exalted far above all principality and power, may we catch the elevated spirit which reigns in the place whither He hath ascended: may we rise above the love of this present evil world; and may we look down with sorrow and shame upon the pursuits of those who mind earthly things. Assured of His faithfulness and power, may we commit to Him, with confidence, the keeping of our souls; and though our enemies be many, and our own weakness great, may we exult in the persuasion, that neither death nor life, nor angels,

nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And, while thus we look back to the triumphs of the Saviour, and trust in Him, and rejoice in Him as invested with the power of an endless life, enable us also to anticipate with joy the period when He, Who came once in the form of a servant, shall appear again the second time, in the glory of His Father and the holy angels; not to die upon a cross, but to sit upon a throne; not to be reproached of men and despised of the people, but to assemble all nations before Him, and to be the Judge both of the living and of the dead.

We rejoice in the rest which remaineth for His people; and we look forward with expectation and triumph to the hour, when He shall gather together into one all the children of God that are scattered abroad, and when He Himself shall dwell among them; when they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light upon them, nor any heat; when the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them to living fountains of waters, and God Himself shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

O grant that all our present Sabbaths may be spent with a view to this heavenly and eternal Sabbath. May the frame and temper of our minds be brought into conformity with the exalted exercises in which we hope to engage in Thy house and kingdom above.

This day, in an especial manner, may we enjoy the presence and grace of the Saviour. May He Who is the Head of the Churches, and Who hath promised to be with His people always, even unto the end of the world, meet with us, and assist us in all the duties in which we shall engage. Be with all Thy worshipping people, and especially with Thy ministering servants, this day. Add, we beseech Thee, to the number of Thy people. Give greater effect everywhere to the preaching of the Gospel. Let Thy Word have free course, and be glorified; and let the whole earth be filled with Thy glory!

All that we ask is in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, Who is all our hope; and to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou are exceeding great: Thou art clothed with honour and with majesty. We acknowledge that we are sinful creatures, unworthy of Thy regard, deserving only Thy displeasure, and of ourselves incapable of rendering to Thee any service which can bear Thine inspection, or be meet for Thine acceptance. But our rejoicing and our confidence are not in ourselves. We prostrate ourselves before Thee as sinners, and we acknowledge that we are altogether as an unclean thing; that in our flesh there dwelleth nothing that is good; that our very

righteousnesses, and best services, and purest affections, are defective and sinful, and require pardon.

But, while thus we lie low before Thee, we rejoice that Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and that Thou delightest in mercy. We rejoice that Thou hast so loved the world, as to send Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but might have everlasting life. We rejoice that He also loved sinners, and gave Himself for them a sacrifice and offering unto God, of a sweet-smelling savour; and now we rejoice and give thanks, that a way is opened for the exercise of Thy mercy towards us, and that Thou art just when Thou justifiest the ungodly, who place their faith and hope in Him. Enable us, gracious God, from the heart to repose all our confidence in Him as the Saviour of our souls. While many are resting their hope upon a sandy foundation, which must give way before the trial of the last day, may we be building upon the Rock of Ages, upon that sure foundation, that tried corner-stone, elect and precious, which Thou hast laid in Zion. May we not only accept of Christ for righteousness, but depend on Him for sanctification, and all needful grace. In Him it hath pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell: may our eyes, therefore, be turned to Him as the fountain of living water; and to Him may we be continually coming, that our souls may be cleansed, and refreshed, and invigorated—purified from the defilements of sin, revived amidst the heats of temptation, and qualified for enduring or for performing the entire will of God.

We lament before Thee our failures in duty this day. Forgive, we pray Thee, the want of spirituality in our devotions, the carelessness and inattention with which we may have heard Thy word, the worldly thoughts that may have followed us into Thy house, and all the imperfections and sin that may have marred and defiled our holy things. Extend to us, we beseech Thee, Thy pardoning mercy; and let the blood of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, cleanse us from all sin. We commend ourselves to Thy protection and favour this night. Watch over us, and over all who are dear to us. Under the shadow of Thy wings may we and they be safe for time and for eternity.

May Thy ministering servants, and especially those whom we have this day heard, be abundantly blessed. May all our Christian brethren throughout the world enjoy Thy favour, the guidance of Thy Spirit, and the light of Thy countenance. Excite everywhere a greater zeal in the cause of Christ. May Christians in every place be more and more anxious to experience the power of the Gospel of Christ. May many go to and fro, and may knowledge everywhere be increased; and may the time be hastened when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

These our prayers we present to Thee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whom we bless Thee; and to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, we ascribe glory and dominion for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, we desire this morning, not only to bow our knees, but to pour out our hearts before Thee, the God of the spirits of all flesh, the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

We bless Thee for the mercies of the past night, and for all the mercies of the past period of our lives. Surely goodness and mercy have followed us continually. Thou hast chosen for us a goodly heritage, surrounded us by innumerable comforts and advantages, and made our cup of earthly blessings to run over. Even in the afflictions and privations with which Thou hast been pleased to visit us, we discern and acknowledge Thy fatherly wisdom and goodness. We bless Thee that, when our sins have called for judgment, Thou hast only chastened us, as a father the son that serveth him, and cast us into the furnace, not that we should be consumed, but that we should come forth, as silver purified.

O Lord, how shall we suitably acknowledge the goodness that hath been conspicuous in every part of our lot, and that hath attended us all the days of our lives? We will extol Thee, O God, our King; we will bless Thy name for ever and ever: every day will we bless Thee; and we will praise Thy name for ever and ever.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, that yester-

day we were permitted to rest from worldly employments, and to occupy our time and our thoughts with the things that belong to our eternal peace. Forbid that, in renewing our connection with the world, we should dismiss from our minds those considerations which were pressed upon us in the course of the services of Thy day. May we never forget the lessons of Thy holy Word; may the thought that Christ laid down His precious life for our sakes, inspire us with a holy and a fixed purpose of soul, to walk in all respects so as to please Him; and may neither the cares nor the pleasures of a world from which the Saviour died to redeem us, have power to shake the stedfastness of our purpose, or to prevent us from affording practical evidence of the power of His cross to crucify us unto the world, and the world unto us.

Help us thus, O Lord, by Thy grace, to live above the world while it is Thy will that we remain in it. From day to day, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, may the frame and temper of our minds point heavenward. May the ties that bind us to the earth be gradually loosened; may we daily feel more of the attracting influence of the things that are above: And, when at length our last Sabbath and our last day on earth shall arrive, may we be found ready to lift up our tabernacle and go hence, not sorrowing on account of what we leave behind, but rejoicing in hope of the glory of God.

And not only would we pray for ourselves: we would be mindful, in Thy presence, of all our brethren of mankind. In our native land, and in our neigh-

bourhood, may the interests of Divine truth especially prevail and flourish. May those who are our friends according to the flesh be brought under its power, and made partakers of its consolations. To Thy care and providence we commend them and ourselves this day and for ever. Let Thy rod and Thy staff uphold and comfort us. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

GREAT and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy. While impressed with Thy greatness and majesty, and penetrated with a sense of Thy goodness and grace, we bow down ourselves before Thee, O do Thou Who dwellest between the cherubim shine forth; manifest Thyself unto us as Thou dost not unto the world; send down upon us Thy Holy Spirit; shed Thy love abroad in our hearts; and grant that, with the affection of children, and the confidence of Thy redeemed servants, we may now worship in Thy presence.

We confess before Thee, gracious God, our manifold and aggravated provocations. But we bless Thee, that in the midst of wrath Thou hast remembered mercy. We rejoice that in Jesus Christ the

exercise of Thy mercy is infinitely consistent with a regard to Thy holiness and justice; and that, believing in Him, we are encouraged to confide in Thee as faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all iniquity. In Him, O Lord, we desire ever to be found; and, for His sake, we now beseech Thee freely to forgive us all our sins, to accept of us as righteous in Thy sight, to adopt us into Thy family, and to bestow upon each of us the outward privileges, and the inward graces, which belong to the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for all we have experienced of Thy liberality during the past period of our lives. Especially, we now unite in giving Thee thanks for any experience we may have had of the power of Thy grace upon our hearts. Grant, we pray Thee, that every conviction of sin, every discovery of the glory and grace of the Saviour, every act of faith, and every desire and endeavour after holiness, of which in time past we may have been conscious, may become habitual to our minds. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, from indifference in religion. Preserve us from hypocrisy and self-deceit. Forbid that we should be indulging in false security, or relying on anything short of that perfect righteousness which Thou wilt acknowledge and accept at the last day. May our religion be that of Thy blessed Word, a religion formed within us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit. May it lead us to lie low before Thee as sinners, and to derive hope and confidence from Christ alone. And while thus it leads

us from ourselves to the Saviour, may it work mightily within us, and upon us; and, under its transforming influence, may we be changed daily into the image of our Lord, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

To Thy care and kindness we commit ourselves and all our concerns this night. May the eternal God be our refuge, and may everlasting arms be underneath and around us. To Him to Whom we commit ourselves, we commend all who are dear to us. May our friends be Thy friends; and may all who are the friends of pure and undefiled religion have a place in our affections, and be remembered by Thee with the favour which Thou bearest to Thine own.

Visit with Thy salvation all our brethren of mankind. Interest those who have themselves experienced the blessings of religion in its universal diffusion; and grant success to all those measures that have for their object the glory of God and the eternal happiness of mankind.

These our prayers, gracious God, we now present to Thee, beseeching Thee to hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ; to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou art great, and Thou dost wondrous things: Thou art God alone. We thank Thee that in Jesus Christ Thou hast revealed Thyself as a God full

of compassion, gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Blessed be Thy name that Thou didst send Him, not as the messenger of wrath, but as the bearer of glad tidings of great joy; not to condemn the world, but to procure and to dispense the blessings of eternal life to the guilty and the perishing. Grant, gracious God, that we may feel our obligations to redeeming love. O may we remember the misery into which sin had plunged us, that we may adequately feel how large is our debt of gratitude to Him, Who sought us out in our lost estate, and Who redeemed us.

We lament the natural indifference of our minds to the Gospel of Thy grace, and to the Saviour Whom it reveals and offers. Forbid, we beseech Thee, that He Who is the offspring and the root of Jesse, the plant of renown, the tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, should appear in our eye as a root out of a dry ground, an undistinguished and a tender plant, without form or comeliness, and having nothing wherefore He should be desired. May our eyes be divinely opened to behold in Him the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth—to perceive in Him those features of heavenly excellence that shall attract and unite our hearts to Him; and may we be sensible of the infinite folly, ingratitude, and guilt, of turning away from Him Who even died to redeem us. Impressed with the dignity of His person, the glory of His character, and the greatness of His love, may we set our seal to every part of the Divine testimony concerning Him, and joyfully acknowledge Him Whom the Father sanctified,

and sent into the world, to be our Lord and our God, our Beloved and our Friend, all our salvation and all our desire.

Let our faith in Him be sincere and stedfast, our love to Him ardent and active, our dependence on Him humble and confiding, our desire to serve and honour Him supreme, disinterested, uniform, and persevering. May the same mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus. May the same humility, the same gentleness, the same anxiety to do one another good, which characterized Him in His intercourse with His disciples, be manifest in our conduct one to another. And as He went about continually doing good, and wherever He went, bore the law and the love of God in His heart, may we, in our dealings with the world, have His example continually in view, and study at once to love God with all our hearts, and our neighbour as ourselves.

Be with us, we entreat Thee, by Thy good Spirit. Leave us not to ourselves. Order our steps in Thy Word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over us. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

We worship Thee, O Lord, as the Sovereign Proprietor of all things; the King of kings and Lord of lords; Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and Whose dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Enable us, we beseech Thee, to look up to Thy throne with that veneration and confidence which become creatures approaching their Creator and most gracious Benefactor. We are sinners, but we rejoice that, though sin is the abominable thing which Thou hatest, Thou hast been pleased to reveal to us a way by which our sins may be blotted out, and our natures sanctified, and by which we may be restored to the image and communion we have lost by the Fall. Blessed be God, there is a fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, and that all are invited, and commanded, and besought, to come to this fountain, and to wash in it and be clean.

With joy, O Lord, may we hearken to the language of Thy compassion and grace, and thankfully accept the blessings that are freely offered us of God. As sinners who need salvation, may we hail with gratitude the tidings that proclaim to us that salvation may be attained. And sensible that we have no means of our own of procuring it, no money and no price adequate to the purchase of it, no righteousness and no merits which can entitle us to the enjoyment of it, may we rejoice that it hath been obtained for us by the obedience and sufferings of the Son of God, and is now presented to our acceptance, as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Not only, gracious God, may it be our privilege to be pardoned and accepted; may we also be numbered among Thy children, and remembered with the

peculiar and paternal favour which Thou bearest unto Thine own. And may our desires and endeavours rise in correspondence with the number and the magnitude of our privileges. May we not only seek to escape from punishment, and to enjoy a freedom from the grosser passions of our nature; but may we long and aspire after all the blessings of the covenant in their largest measures and fullest degrees, and be satisfied with nothing short of being filled with all the fulness of God.

We thank Thee for all Thy goodness to us during the past day. Mercifully be with us, we entreat Thee, during the night. Thou Who keepest Israel, and Who slumberest not nor sleepest, watch over us. Let no ill befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. But may we, and all who are dear to us, be protected by Thy providence and sanctified by Thy grace, and find that, by night as well as by day, all Thy ways towards us are in mercy and truth.

These our prayers we humbly present to Thee in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, we ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our Preserver and Redeemer, to whom can we go but unto Thee? Thou hast all fulness in Thyself, and with Thee is the fountain of life. We rejoice

that Thou hast blessings suited to the circumstances and necessities of all Thy creatures, and that Thy liberality is equal to the abundance of the blessings Thou hast to bestow. Blessed be God Who hath invited us, with all the burden of our unworthiness, to approach His throne; and blessed be God for Him through Whom we are invited to approach: we rejoice in Him as infinitely able, and as willing as He is able, to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.

Unto Thee, O Lord, through Him, we at this time come, and for His sake we humbly beseech Thee to look favourably upon us and to bless us. Thou knowest the state and circumstances of each one now in Thy presence. Thou art acquainted with all our weakness and all our wants, with our peculiar infirmities, with our besetting faults, with our liability to yield to temptation, with our nearness to unseen dangers, with our unfitness to meet particular trials, and with our proneness to sink under the pressure of unusual or unexpected burdens. O grant that, according to our day, so may be our strength. If any of us be destitute of the first principles of true religion, may Thy Spirit awaken us to consideration, and urge us, while it is not too late, to flee for refuge to the hope set before us in the Gospel. If our minds be but partially enlightened, and our hearts but imperfectly renewed, let Him lead us daily more and more into all truth. If difficulties stand in the way of the discharge of any part of our duty, may He furnish us with greater degrees of holy resolution, and elevate us above every con-

sideration but allegiance to the Saviour, and zeal for His glory. If tempted to depart from Thee in thought, or in word, or in deed, may we not be tempted above that we are able to bear; but may Thy strength be made perfect in our weakness, and with every temptation may a way of escape be afforded us.

In the season of affliction, may Thy grace equally be made sufficient for us. Under all the chastenings of Thy hand, grant us Divine support and consolation. Let not our minds be overwhelmed by the dispensations of Thy Providence. In all our trials may we remember that we are in the hand of a gracious, and compassionate, and all-wise God; and that in sending affliction upon us, He deals with us as with sons, and corrects us not for His pleasure, but for our profit.

Thus, O Lord, may we be upheld by Thy Spirit while we are in this world; may all Thy ways towards us be in mercy and truth; let the joy of the Lord be our strength; and after we have done and suffered the will of God, grant that we may be found in some measure meet for entering on the rest which Thou hast prepared for Thy people in heaven. We would be mindful in Thy presence, not only of ourselves, but of all who are united to us by the ties of nature, of affection, and of grace. Be with us and them this day. Protect us from danger. Preserve us from sin. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. And to Thee in Jesus Christ, Who is all our hope, we ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. All things derive their existence from Thee; all are naked and open to Thy view; all are subject to Thy control, and subservient to Thy glory. Enable us, we beseech Thee, to meditate on Thy greatness, and to entertain exalted conceptions of Thy majesty and glory. Nor let us remember Thy greatness alone. May Thy love towards us in Jesus Christ inspire us with a lively and confiding sense of Thy goodness. May we learn to love as well as to fear Thee; and may the spirit of adoption take possession of our minds, and teach us to address Thee as "Abba, Father."

We thank Thee, gracious God, for the mercies of the past day. It is because Thy mercies are infinite, that we are daily fed and preserved. It is because Thy mercy endureth for ever, that our sins are not followed by punishment, and that we are not only provided with the means of temporal comfort and enjoyment, but presented with the offers of salvation, the means of grace, and the hope of glory.

To the bounties of Thy Providence, and the privileges of Thy grace, add, we beseech Thee, the gift of Thy Holy Spirit. May He who is the Teacher and the Comforter of the Church, be vouchsafed to us in all His sanctifying and saving influences; and through Him may we be directed to a suitable improvement of our many mercies and advantages. Above all, may

He lead us to the Saviour, and fill us with a thankful sense of Thy great mercy towards us in Him. Let Thy Spirit discover to us how low and miserable sin has made us; how free and full is the salvation of the Gospel; how great are our obligations to Thee for continuing to make an offer of it to us. And under an impression that the debt we owe to Thy mercy is infinite, may we gratefully accept what Thou hast freely offered, and devote ourselves to the service of Him to Whom we are indebted for all our happiness in time, and all our hope for eternity.

Be with us, we humbly beseech Thee, through this night. May the close of every day remind us that we are in progress to the close of life; and may the darkness around us remind us of the approach of that night in which no man can work.

To Thy special compassion we commend the destitute, the afflicted, and the dying. Appoint unto them that mourn in Zion beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Let Thy mercy smooth the bed of sickness; let Thy promises prove a sovereign balm to heal the wounds of the broken in heart; let faith in Thy Son be an anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast, to the doubting, the agitated, and the tempted; and let the hope full of immortality, which is founded on the Gospel, enlighten and cheer the troubled mind in its passage through the valley of the shadow of death. To Thy boundless compassion and infinite power we commend all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence. Hear us, we beseech Thee, for

them and for ourselves; and all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

We come before Thee this morning, O Lord, humbled under a sense of our unworthiness and demerit. We lament the coldness of our hearts and the worldly bias of our affections; and we acknowledge with shame and contrition, that the natural estrangement of our souls from Thee is painfully apparent, even in our holiest moments, and in our best attempts to please Thee.

Not only have we to complain of stammering tongues: we have to confess and to lament wandering hearts, cold affections, and divided minds. Alas! how liable are we to forget the infinite majesty of the God whom we profess to adore; and in the ordinary concerns of life, how prone are we to lose sight of Thee altogether, as if at any time Thou couldst be far from us! How low are our conceptions of Thy character: how unworthy the homage we profess to render Thee! What insincerity marks our profession of adherence to Thee; what coldness pervades our devotions; what inconsistencies appear in our deportment! Even when we feel our obligations most, we feel them little. Compared to what it should be, our love is but indifference, and our service is but neglect.

We are verily guilty, O Lord, in Thy sight—guilty beyond all that our notions of guilt, or our knowledge of ourselves, or our conceptions of Thy stainless purity, enable us to imagine. But we bless Thee, that though sin is Thine abhorrence, and though our sins are all known to Thee, Thy thoughts towards us sinners are thoughts not of merited anger, but of undeserved and boundless compassion. Blessed be God, Who sent His Son into the world to lay down His life a ransom for sinners; and blessed be God, that in Him Thou speakest to us not in the earthquake, nor in the whirlwind, nor in the fire, but in the still small voice of encouragement and love!

To Thee in Him, gracious God, would we now come. May we all have faith to behold the guilt of sin wiped out by the blood of the Son of God; and may the faith by which we are delivered from the bondage of fear, raise us effectually above the slavery of corruption, and enable us not only to exercise repentance in reference to the past, but to resolve and to act for the future as the ransomed of the Lord, the free-born and beloved children of the living God.

Alive to the evil of sin, may we guard against it in all its forms and degrees, and by Thy grace be enabled successfully to resist it, nothwithstanding its allurements and assaults. May the aim and business of our lives be to acquire and to maintain a close conformity to the end for which the Saviour died; and remembering that He died that they which live should live not unto themselves, but unto Him, may we daily shake off the influence of evil habits and

passions, and aspire after higher degrees of that holiness by which we shall resemble Him here, and be prepared for being with Him where he is in His kingdom above.

With ourselves we would be mindful of all our brethren of mankind. Where sin hath abounded, let grace much more abound. Let the power of the Gospel extend wherever the power of evil hath been felt; and hasten, we beseech Thee, the time when all the ravages of sin shall be repaired, and the earth shall be filled with the knowledge and with the glory of the Lord.

We beseech Thee to be very gracious to all our friends, and to all who are united to us by the ties of affection and of neighbourhood. Be with them and with us this day. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O Lord, unto Whom all praise belongeth, we thank Thee that we are permitted to worship at Thy footstool, and that we are assured that whoso offereth praise glorifieth Thee. We come before Thee under a deep sense of our own unworthiness. We are sinners, O Lord, and ungrateful sinners. But we come to Thee with all the burden of our guilt, and rely for acceptance on the merits and mediation of Him Whom Thou hast set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in His blood.

Trusting in His atonement and righteousness, we beseech Thee to look mercifully upon us. Let Thy mercy extend to the pardon of our sins, the acceptance of our persons, the sanctification of our souls, and the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, as the source of comfort, and the pledge of glory. Let not sin have dominion over any of us. Create within us, we beseech Thee, clean hearts; renew right spirits within us. What Thou hatest, teach us to hate; what Thou lovest, teach us to love. What Thy law forbids, grant us grace to avoid; what it enjoins, enable us cordially to approve and do. Implant within us a governing principle of conformity to Thine image; and may obedience to Thy law, and submission to Thine appointments, be to us as meat and as drink.

Confirm, we beseech Thee, the good which Thou hast been pleased to create within us. Let it not be overpowered or checked by the influence of the world. May Thy Spirit add to its vigour and increase its growth; and, grafted into the true vine, may we daily bring forth much fruit, that our Father may be glorified.

Impress upon our minds, O Lord, a salutary fear of falling into temptation. May we ever remember the vanity of the world, the deceitfulness of its promises, the unsatisfactory character of its best blessings, the certainty of disappointment and loss if we attempt to set our hearts upon it; and turning from it as a poor and an insufficient portion, may we make choice of Thee as our chief good, and adhere to Thee through evil report and through good report.

and have been translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of Thy dear Son. This day we commend ourselves to Thy providence and grace. Thou hast been pleased to preserve us during the past night, and to add another day to our lives: grant that, under a sense of Thy goodness, we may be induced to spend this day and all our days in Thy fear. Defend us, and all whom we should remember before Thee, from the dangers to which we are exposed. Enable us, in our passage through life, to bear about with us a constant remembrance of the shortness of time, and of our nearness to eternity; and may our minds be so disposed and affected, that, whatever may befall, to us to live it may be Christ, and to die gain.

We pray for the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom throughout the world. We pray for the progress and success of the Gospel. In this place, and in every corner of our native land, and in every part of the habitable earth, may the joyful sound be heard; and wherever it is heard, may it be felt to be the wisdom of God and the power of God unto salvation.

We beseech Thee, gracious God, to hear these our humble supplications, to forgive our sins, and to accept of us and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art the only living and true God, the self-existent, independent, and eternal Jehovah, of Whom, and to Whom, and through Whom, are all things, to Whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. We rejoice, O Lord, that while Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens, Thou hast not left us in ignorance of Thy character, nor denied us the consolation of knowing, that our imperfect attempts to serve Thee will not be rejected nor despised. We rejoice that we have a great High Priest over the house of God, and that through Him we have access to Thy throne.

While we are struggling with sin in this outer and far distant court, we rejoice to think that our ever-living Advocate is at Thy right hand in the holiest of all, and that He maketh intercession for us continually. O grant that, while there are fears within and fightings without, we may be enabled by faith to pass the vail, and to contemplate our great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, crowned with glory and honour, invested with the garments of salvation, radiant with the glory from off the mercy-seat; and not only thus all-glorious Himself, but bearing on His breastplate the names of all His people; ministering in their behalf at the golden altar; and, as their feeble prayers come up in low and broken accents, taking them and perfuming them with much incense, and presenting them as an offering infinitely acceptable unto His Father Who sitteth upon the throne.

Thus, O Lord, may we restrain and surmount the fears that would prompt us to keep at a distance from Thy presence. While we raise our thoughts to the contemplation of Thy greatness, and dwell upon the wonders of Thy power, the glories of Thy holiness, and the terrors of Thy justice, may we find in faith an antidote to all our fears; may we think of Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and, instead of yielding to despondency and a sense of personal demerit, may we feel ourselves attracted to Thy throne, and bound to Thee by the ties of grateful and unceasing affection.

O may the contemplation of Thy greatness fill, and elevate, and enrapture our minds; but chiefly may we dwell on Thy goodness and grace. As our thoughts turn on Thee, glorious in all Thy perfections, wonderful in counsel, excellent in working, creating all things, sustaining all things, governing all things, transcending all our thoughts, exalted above all our praises—the eternal, incomprehensible, and immutable Jehovah—may we feel that all Thy greatness is nothing to the thought, that Thou hast loved us and given Thy Son to be a propitiation for us.

May this thought overcome and expel every remaining hard thought of Thee, which sin may have led us to harbour. May it melt and warm hearts which sin has chilled and hardened. May we feel it impossible to resist the claims of a love which hath dwelt ineffably in the bosom of the great God of the universe; and as we reflect on the unworthy returns we have too often made to that love, and the infinite variety of methods

by which that love hath been displayed, may we now and for ever dedicate ourselves unto Thee; and resolve, through Thy grace, that though other lords may have exercised dominion over us, by Thy name alone henceforward will we be called.

Accept of us, we beseech Thee, O our God; and set Thy seal to this our covenant, working in us by Thy Spirit all that is well-pleasing in Thy sight. Now unto Him Who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

We adore Thee, O Lord, as the Most High over all the earth, the Creator and Sovereign Proprietor of the universe, the rightful Lord of angels and of men. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord; who can show forth all His praise?

We rejoice that Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness; but in every age and among every people hast made Thyself known as a gracious and bountiful Benefactor. To us, O Lord, in an especial manner, Thou hast been pleased to reveal Thyself by Thy Word and through Thy Son. Blessed be God that to us the word of salvation hath been sent—to us the mystery hid from ages and generations hath been revealed; that before our eyes those things have been

set forth which many kings and righteous men desired in vain to behold.

We bless Thee for our distinguished privileges as Christians. We thank Thee, that while many of our fellow-creatures are sitting in darkness, we have been called to behold a great light; and that while many around us are suffering from the neglect of those who ought to have led their feet into the way of peace, we have enjoyed the benefit of early instruction, and from the time we began to think, have been surrounded by inducements to flee from the wrath to come, and yield ourselves unto God, as redeemed by the blood of His Son. As Thou hast distinguished us by outward advantages above many of our fellow-men, grant us also the heart to feel Thy goodness, and the disposition thankfully to improve Thy benefits. Forbid that we should misapprehend the design for which Thy mercies have been bestowed: let us not rest in them as if the enjoyment of them were sufficient for our salvation: let us not deceive and destroy our own souls, by regarding them as pledges of Thy favour, independently of the use and improvement we make of them. For this purpose, we beseech Thee, gracious God, to grant us that inward grace which alone can render outward advantages availing and effectual. Sensible of the corruption and infirmity of our own hearts, we look up to Thee for Thy Holy Spirit as the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. Under the guidance of Thy Spirit, may we apply all the means of grace with which we are favoured to their

proper ends. May we derive benefit from the dispensations of Thy providence, and the ordinances of Thine appointment. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and be neither barren nor unfruitful in any of those habits, dispositions, and tempers, which are suitable to our profession and character as Christians.

We unite, gracious God, in giving Thee thanks for all Thy temporal goodness. We thank Thee for the rest of the past night, the light of this day, and all the comforts of our lot. Be with us, we beseech Thee, during this day. Help us to sanctify Thee, the Lord God, in our hearts, and to make Thee our continual fear and dread. And grant that while, as creatures, we fear to offend Thee, as Thy redeemed and adopted children, we may learn supremely to love, and cheerfully to serve Thee. Be very gracious, we beseech Thee, to all our friends, and to all whom we should remember in our prayers before Thee. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord, our salvation and our glory, the rock of our strength and our refuge, we desire at this time to place our trust in Thee, and to pour out our hearts before Thee with unreserved and filial confidence. What are we, O Lord, that we should be admitted to communion with the Lord, the Lord of Hosts!

We thank Thee, gracious God, that Thou hast

taught us in Thy Word how we may serve and honour Thee. May all the effects which Thy goodness ought to produce be manifest in our experience and in our conduct. May Thy goodness lead us to repentance. May warmth be imparted to our gratitude, and strength to our resolution, by Him Who giveth power to the faint, and Who to them who have no might increaseth strength. May Thy Spirit quicken us when we are slothful, animate us when desponding, and confirm us when wavering. When we are in straits may He guide us, and in the midst of temptation may He protect us. May He go before us to show us our way, be our Guardian as we follow in His steps, and finally conduct us to the place of which the Lord hath said that He will give it us.

For this purpose, bless, we entreat Thee, all the means of grace with which we are favoured. May the events of Thy providence daily furnish us with impressive and useful lessons. May the truths of Thy Word sink down into our hearts; and as we read them or meditate on them, may they take a stronger hold of our affections, and acquire a more decided ascendancy over our principles of action. May the return of Thy holy day bring round to us new pleasures and new sources of sanctifying influence. May we grow wiser and holier every day and every week that passes over us; and as we approach nearer an eternal world, may we progressively become better qualified for its enjoyments, its services, and its society.

With a thankful sense of all Thy past goodness, we now commit ourselves to Thee during the silence and

darkness of this night. With the week that is about to close, we would dismiss all our worldly cares and thoughts. Protect us through this night. If it please Thee, let the light of another day dawn upon us; and when we awake to the light of another day, let us also awake to the purposes for which that day hath been consecrated and set apart.

Be very gracious, we beseech Thee, to Thy Church and people. May all who profess and call themselves Christians, be united in affection one to another, and in supreme love to Thee, their Benefactor and God. Let the time, even the set time to favour Zion, speedily arrive; and, while in faith we wait the accomplishment of Thy promise, grant times of refreshing from Thy presence.

In an especial manner, be pleased to extend Thy blessing to our friends, and to all in whom we are naturally and particularly interested. May the Lord Himself be their God, and may He cause His face continually to shine upon them.

We leave ourselves, O Lord, in Thy hands. All our wants are known to Thee. Correct what is amiss in our prayers: supply what is lacking: bestow, in answer to them, what Thou knowest to be best for us. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory and honour, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

# Third Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, whom have we in heaven but Thee, and in all the earth there is none whom we desire besides Thee; our heart and our flesh faileth, but Thou art the strength of our heart and our portion for ever. We rejoice that we are permitted to approach Thy throne; and that, laden with guilt and with corruption, beset by dangers, oppressed by infirmities, exposed to affliction, and appointed at last to die, we have Thee as our sure refuge to Whom we may ever resort.

In the provisions of the Gospel, we rejoice to contemplate the lively characters of Divine and paternal love. We thank Thee that Thou didst send even Thine own Son into the world to be our Saviour, and that through Him not only has peace been proclaimed on earth, but glory been secured to God in the highest. Contemplating the whole plan of saving mercy, we lie prostrate before Thee in admiration of the height and the depth, the length and the breadth of the love of God in Christ Jesus; and feeling our own insufficiency suitably to comprehend, or worthily to celebrate it, we own, with humility and gratitude, that it passeth knowledge.

May we be thus engaged and affected this day. This is the day consecrated to the memory of Him Who, having laid down His life for His sheep, resumed

it for their justification and salvation. On this the day which the Lord hath set apart as His own, and which He hath made precious to His people by His victory over death and hell, may we rejoice and be glad. May our minds be raised in correspondence with the subject which the day commemorates. May we rise with our risen Lord; and as risen with Him, may we seek those things that are above, where He sitteth at the right hand of God.

And we would bless Thee, O Lord, not only for the Sabbath day, but for all the means of religious instruction and spiritual improvement which we especially enjoy on that day. O may a rich and an effectual blessing from on high accompany the means of grace, and make them in our experience abundantly instrumental to the advancement of every holy principle, devout affection, and religious habit, by which it is Thy will that Thy people should be distinguished. And this we entreat, O Lord, not only for ourselves, but for all our fellow-worshippers. In every assembly of Thy saints, O do Thou, Who art the King of saints, vouchsafe Thy presence. Thou art acquainted with the case and circumstances of all who shall this day meet in Thy courts: whilst Thou turnest away in displeasure from the hypocrite and the formalist, and seest the proud and the self-confident afar off, draw nigh, in mercy and great compassion, to the soul of every sincere and humble worshipper.

On the mind that mourns its darkness, lift Thou up the light of Thy glory as it shines in the face of

Jesus Christ. Into the wounded and the broken heart, pour the balm of heavenly consolation. Dispel every cloud which sin or sorrow may have raised between Thy genuine people and Thyself. O Thou Who art the hope of Israel, and the Saviour thereof in the time of trouble, be not to any of them as a stranger in the land, or as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry but for a night. What they know not, teach Thou them; what they feel oppressing them, enable them to bear; what they have not, but which Thou knowest to be needful for them, direct them to ask from Thyself. Lead each to commit his way unto Thee, and to cast his burden upon Thee; and may the heart of every one experience, that the Lord is good to them that wait for Him, to every soul that seeketh Him.

Assist Thy ministering servants, O Lord, in declaring Thy truth. Send into their hearts much of the savour and power of the Gospel; and accompany their ministrations with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

Lord, let Thy kingdom come! Everywhere let the power of the Gospel be this day felt; let its converts be multiplied; and let increasing and visible progress be made towards its glorious diffusion over the whole earth. Hear us, we beseech Thee, and accept of us. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

O LORD, on this the evening of Thy day, we desire to give Thee thanks for all the goodness and mercy which have followed us during the course of it, and during the whole period of our past lives. We thank Thee for every temporal blessing, but especially for our spiritual privileges, our religious advantages, and the good hope of life and immortality, which has been brought to light by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We bless Thee that this day we have been permitted to enjoy the means of grace, to attend on the ordinances of Thy worship, to hear Thy holy Word, and to unite with Thy people in approaching Thy throne, and in celebrating Thy praises.

May the sins we have this day committed be blotted out. In everything we offend and come short of Thy glory; but especially is our sinfulness liable to manifest itself, when the necessity for restraining it is greatest. We lament that, when it is most our duty to exclude the world and its concerns from our minds, then the world is most apt to press its claims upon us, and that we are ever too ready to yield to its allurements and solicitations. Our souls cleave unto the dust; but we look up to Thee, O Lord, to quicken us according to Thy Word. May the want of due liveliness in devotion, which we have this day discovered, be graciously forgiven. May our carelessness, and indifference, and thoughtlessness, while hearing or reading Thy Word, not be laid to our charge. May all the

iniquity of our holy things, all the dross of our sacrifices, be graciously carried away into a land of forgetfulness, never to be remembered against us any more for ever.

And not only may our sins be forgiven, but grant, gracious God, that an effectual remedy may be applied to our corruptions. May we daily become more sensible of the reality and value of eternal things; and as risen with Christ, may we seek the things that are above, where He sitteth at the right hand of God.

May we thus be taught by Thyself, and thus be directed to improve all our future Sabbaths, and every renewed opportunity granted us, of attending to the things that belong to our peace. As our advantages multiply, may we grow in grace; and in proportion to the culture bestowed on us, may our ripeness for heaven advance: till at length, when our Lord shall come and call us home, we may be found in some measure prepared for serving Him in His temple above; where we shall have no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine upon us, but where we shall see His face and walk in His light for ever and ever.

With ourselves we would be mindful of our friends. Take them and us under Thy protection this night. Be the guardian of the young, the support and comfort of the aged; and teach those who are in the enjoyment of health and strength to devote their advantages to Thy service.

We pray for the universal diffusion of religious knowledge. May Thy way everywhere be known upon the earth, and let Thy saving health be extended to all nations. May every hindrance to the progress

and triumph of the Gospel be removed, and may the whole earth speedily be filled with Thy glory.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance with Thee, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O Lord, in coming into Thy presence this morning, help us to feel that it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Thou most High. We thank Thee for the opportunity we yesterday enjoyed of religious improvement, and of spiritual intercourse with our Christian brethren. We rejoice in a day set apart for the service of God; and we recognise in it a proof of the kindness of Him Who, in compassion to our weakness, hath adopted it as the means of producing and reviving impressions by which we are raised above this present evil world, and advanced in preparation for the employments and happiness of an endless and heavenly Sabbath.

During the course of this day and of this week, may the effect of our Sabbath day's employments appear in our temper, our language, and our deportment. Let not religion, O Lord, be with us the garment worn only on rare and solemn occasions. Let it not be laid aside when the services of Thy house are concluded, or when the hours of Thy holy day are numbered. May it be our ordinary and our constant

garb. May it form the badge by which we are known in the world, and be the constant companion of our active as well as of our leisure hours.

To Thee, O Lord, we look up for grace to enable us thus to live habitually in Thy fear. O let Thy Spirit bring the truths of Thy Word seasonably and powerfully to our recollection, while we are engaged in the business, and exposed to the temptations, of our respective situations in life. Temper our circumstances, we beseech Thee, to our ability to contend with them; or, if it please Thee, raise our ability to the level of our circumstances; and in whatever state we are, make Thy grace sufficient for us. Amidst the contending claims for the sovereignty of our affections, may our allegiance to God our Saviour remain unalterable and unshaken; and when at any time we are ready to give place to another master, O may the thought of the dishonour we are about to put on Him, Who bears on His hands and on His side the marks of His love for us, bring us repentant back to His throne, and bind us with new ties to His service.

With these sentiments, and under the influence of these obligations, we would enter on the business of this day, and of this week. Let not our footsteps slide. Let not mercy and truth forsake us; but let integrity and uprightness preserve and direct us.

Be very merciful to all our friends. Be bountiful to our benefactors; and extend Thy forgiveness to our enemies. Implant and cherish in us every kind and benevolent disposition; and make us the ministers of good to all around us.

We pray, O Lord, for the accomplishment of Thy promises to Thy Church and people throughout the world. We pray for the universal diffusion of religious knowledge. Thine, O Lord, is the kingdom; Thine also is the power. Take to Thyself Thy great power; and let the abundance of the sea be converted unto Thee; let the forces of the Gentiles come unto Thee; let them bring gold and incense; and let them show forth the praises of the Lord. All that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O Thou Who art the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless Thee for the encouragement which Thou hast given us to make our requests known unto Thee, and for the assurance that if we, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto our children, much more will our Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.

Pour down upon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit as the Spirit of grace and of supplications: let Him help our infirmities; let Him teach us how to pray; let Him show us the things of which we stand in need; let Him impart to us a sincere and earnest desire to have our wants supplied; and let Him inspire us with all holy confidence in Thy willingness to hear, and in Thy power to help us.

May we count prayer a privilege. In approaching Thy throne, may we come as children to a father, and as the poor and helpless to a bountiful and gracious benefactor. Destroy, we beseech Thee, the enmity natural to our minds, which prompts us to regard Thee as a hard master, and Thy service as a burden and a weariness. Help us to remember how many are our wants, how powerful our enemies, how numerous and how urgent our inducements to throw ourselves upon the exercise of Thy mercy, and to entreat the continued supply of Thine all-sufficient grace. Before Thee, O Lord, we acknowledge that we have nothing of our own. In ourselves we behold but emptiness and want, and in our circumstances but perplexity and danger. But we look up to Thee as our all-sufficient refuge. In Thee we rejoice to contemplate all that we need; and in the gift of Thy Son, and in Thy promises in Him, we desire to behold the pledge of Thy readiness to exchange our poverty for plenty, and our sorrow for joy.

Be it unto us according to Thy Word. We have nothing, but we look up to Thee Who hast all things. We are guilty, but we come to Thee to pardon us. We are polluted, but we beseech Thee to sanctify us. We are helpless, but we beseech Thee to strengthen and to uphold us. Ignorant are we, but do Thou instruct us; foolish, but do Thou correct us; prone to wander, but do Thou lead us. In all our ways let Thine eye be upon us for good. In the midst of our enemies, encompass us with favour as a shield. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our

life, and let us dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Nor would we pray for ourselves alone. We beseech Thee to bless all our relations and friends. Be very gracious to the young. Be pleased early to turn their hearts to Thyself. May they surrender themselves as first fruits unto the Lord; and may He that formed them have mercy upon them, and be their God, and make them His own children for ever. To Thy compassion we commend the aged and afflicted. As natural comforts fail, may Divine and heavenly consolations abound yet more and more. Let Thy servants who are drawing nigh the grave, experience that, as the outward man perisheth, the inward man is renewed day by day; and that, as the ties which connect them with the world are giving way, they are drawn closer in affection and in desire to their heavenly and eternal home. May those of Thy people whom it is Thy will to continue on earth, and who are blessed with the means of usefulness, be active in the cause of pure and undefiled religion; and let their light so shine, that others, seeing their good works, may glorify their Father Which is in heaven.

To Thy mercy we commend ourselves this night. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

We adore Thee, O Lord, as the only living and true God—a great God and a great King above all gods. Enable us to draw near to Thee under a deep and reverential sense of Thy greatness and majesty. May a sense of our insignificance and dependence fill us with gratitude for the notice Thou bestowest on us, and the care Thou takest of us. Continually do we depend upon Thee for life, for breath, and for all things; and continually art Thou opening Thy hand wide, and liberally satisfying our returning wants.

O may a sense of Thy goodness lead us to repentance—to a sincere and godly sorrow for all our past transgressions, and to a hearty, earnest, and persevering determination, that henceforth, whatever others do, as for us we will serve the Lord. May we remember, and may we act upon the remembrance, that we are not our own, and that Thou hast formed, sustained, protected, endowed, and blessed us, not that we should live unto ourselves, but that we should glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine. Especially may this conviction be impressed upon our minds by the love Thou hast shown us in Jesus Christ. Remembering the fearful pit and the miry clay from which in mercy Thou hast delivered us; remembering that Thou didst not spare Thine own Son, but didst freely deliver Him up for us all; remembering that with Him Thou offerest, and art willing to bestow upon us all things, may we feel it impossible to resist the

claims which Thou, our Father and our redeeming God, hast on us; or to refuse making a cordial, entire, and perpetual surrender of ourselves to Thee, Whose we are, and Whom henceforward we resolve to serve. And may we be enabled by Thy grace to adhere to this our covenant, in spite of every inducement to break it, which our own evil heart, or a world which lieth in wickedness, or our great adversary the devil, may suggest. God forbid, that, having put our hand to the plough, we should ever draw back. Having counted the cost, may we successfully withstand every allurement and every solicitation, whether addressed to us from within or from without, to turn from the holy commandment. And not only may we thus be stedfast and immoveable, but may the supplies of Thy grace so meet all the exigencies of our condition, and prevail over the sloth and corruption of our nature, that we shall abound always in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Help us, we beseech Thee, this day to act on these sacred principles. When we leave Thy throne, and engage in the ordinary business of life, may we retain a lively recollection of our obligations to Thy providence and grace; and instead of abusing Thy mercies or forgetting Thee in the enjoyment of them, may we spend this day as under the eye of God, and in the full prospect of appearing before Him in judgment.

Make us thankful, we pray Thee, for the mercies of the past night and of this morning. Continue Thy goodness towards us. May we and all who are dear

to us, be protected by Thy power, sanctified by Thy Spirit, and enabled by Thy grace to be useful in the sphere and station in which Thou hast placed us. And do Thou hear us, and accept of us, and answer us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, we worship Thee as the omniscient and omnipresent Jehovah. We adore Thee as the God Who hast searched us and known us, Who knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising, and who understandest our thoughts afar off. We rejoice, gracious God, that Thou art at no time far from any of us. We rejoice that, in all our troubles and perplexities, we have Thee as our high tower to which we may resort; and that on the strength of Thine arm, and the wisdom of Thy guidance, we can ever depend, in the midst of the snares and the dangers by which we are surrounded.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that naturally we are destitute of the dispositions and affections which are well-pleasing in Thy sight. We blush and are ashamed to think how much disorder in our affections, and impurity in our services, must meet Thine all-searching eye; and how much cause we continually afford Thee to turn from us in anger, and to shut up against us Thy compassion for ever. But we bless Thee that Thou art a God of mercy, and that Thou, Who knowest all things, and art acquainted with the depth and the

malignity of our corruptions, hast made Thyself known to us in Jesus Christ as willing to apply a sovereign remedy to all the evils which sin hath brought upon us, to release us from its bondage, to cleanse us from its pollution, and to redeem us from its curse. We now, O Lord, look up to Thee in this gracious character: and we humbly beseech Thee, Who art acquainted with the variety of our wants, our weaknesses, our corruptions, and our dangers, to manifest Thyself as our Protector and Deliverer. Without Thee we can do nothing. And we look up to Thee to be ever near us, not only as the Preserver of our natural life, and the Dispenser of our outward blessings, but as the God of grace and of consolation, on Whom we continually depend for the means of spiritual life and vigour. Let Thy grace daily be sufficient for us. As our day is, so let our strength be. Let Thine omniscient eye descry danger before it reaches us. Let Thine omnipotent hand supply to us the place of a shield and a defence. Though in ourselves weak, in Thee may we be strong. When bewildered, may we hear Thy voice behind us, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.' And when our resources fail, and our foot slippeth, let Thy mercy hold us up.

And not only do we beseech Thee to bless ourselves. We commend to Thee all our brethren of mankind. Especially, we beseech Thee, bless those who are bound to us by the ties of kindred and of friendship. May they and we be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May they and we be protected this night, be guided by Thy counsel

through life, and finally be made partakers of everlasting felicity through Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BEFORE Thee, O Lord, Who dwellest in the highest heavens, and Whose kingdom ruleth over all, we this morning bow down ourselves in humility and gratitude. Thou art our Father and our God, infinitely worthy of our veneration and our confidence. While Thou art saying unto us, 'Seek ye My face,' let our hearts reply unto Thee, 'Thy face, Lord, will we seek.' Let not our devotions, O Lord, be empty formality. Let not the sacrifices we present to Thee be a heartless show. Raise our thoughts above all mean and frivolous concerns. Excite within us lively feelings of genuine and animated devotion. Remove the cloud which too often hangs between our souls and Thee. Let light from heaven shine in upon our souls; and beholding Thee in the glory which belongs to Thy character, and which awakens the love and admiration of saints and angels, let us feel towards Thee as we have never felt towards any creature, and own from the heart, that there is none in heaven but Thee, and none in all the earth whom we desire in comparison of Thee.

We lament that, at the door of hearts which Thou didst form for Thyself, but which are so often pos-

sessed by trifles and vanity, Thou art ever left to knock in vain. We humble ourselves before Thee in the dust at the thought, that the heart which ought to be set apart as Thy sanctuary, is so often given up to foolish desires and vain imaginations, and that God the Lord, Whose we are and to Whom we are indebted for everything, has so often reason to say, that He came to His own, but His own received Him not.

O Lord, with Thee is all power in heaven and in earth, and we cast ourselves, with all the aggravations of our case, upon Thy mercy. Thou hast the key to our hearts. Thou hast but to speak the word, and the gates of brass shall be broken in pieces, and the bars of iron shall be cut in sunder. Let Thy great power be exerted in our behalf. Bow Thy heavens, and come down. Enter into our hearts by Thy Spirit. Assert Thy sovereign right to reign supreme in our affections; and make of our souls a peculiar and an abiding habitation, in which nothing shall remain, which does not bear the lively stamp of holiness unto the Lord.

Not for ourselves alone do we pray for this distinguished exercise of Thy power and grace. We intercede for others. We would bear upon our minds the condition of a world which lieth in wickedness—of multitudes of our fellow-creatures, immortal and rational like ourselves, who are living as if there were no God, and who are destitute of the hopes and consolations of the Gospel of Christ. Look in compassion upon the dark places of the earth. And, O look in compassion upon the deeper darkness of the human

mind; and command the light of Thy glory as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ, everywhere to dispel the thick clouds of error and of sin, in which so many are involved.

To Thy merciful regard we especially commend all who are united to us by the ties of nature or affection. Unite them to Thy Son. Bring them to Thyself, by giving them Thy Holy Spirit. Make us the instruments of usefulness to them; and, in their turn, may they be the means of confirming our faith, and hope, and love, and of not only adding to our comfort, but of promoting our improvement.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and let Thy blessing this day be upon us. And all that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him? Thou didst crown him with glory and honour, and didst make him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands. But we lament that he has fallen from the high station in which Thou didst originally place him. We lament that he has fallen by his iniquities, and that he is no longer the pure and exalted creature whom Thou didst form for Thyself, and invest with the beauties of holiness.

Blessed be Thy name, that though the crown hath fallen from our heads, and though sin hath laid our honours in the dust, Thou hast not despised nor abhorred our misery. Blessed be Thy name, that Thou hast in great mercy sent Thy Son into the world, to bear our sins and carry our sorrows, that by His stripes we might be healed. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! By Thy love towards us in Christ Jesus, Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens.

Grant, gracious God, we beseech Thee, that we may feel our obligations to redeeming love. And O do Thou, Who hast displayed Thy love towards us by the gift of Thy Son, consummate and crown this Thy great mercy, by sending Thy Spirit into our hearts. May He Whom the Saviour promised to His disciples to supply His place among them, and to bring all things concerning Him seasonably and effectually to their remembrance, be vouchsafed unto us in all His sanctifying and saving influences. May He open our understandings, soften our hearts, touch and quicken our affections, direct and purify our desires, and implant within us every holy and heavenly principle.

O may these happy results be experienced by each one now in Thy presence. Naturally, O Lord, we are aliens from Thee, the subjects of sin, the bond-servants of Satan. Let not any of us be left in this degrading and cruel bondage. Quicken each of us to a sense of his natural misery and corruption. Discover to each the method of saving mercy. Direct us in the inquiry, what we must do to be saved. Lead us to the Lamb

of God Which taketh away the sin of the world; and in reliance on His merits, and dependence on His grace, may we lose the fears of guilt, rise superior to the bondage of corruption, and exult in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Thus, being made free from sin, and become servants of God, may we daily have our fruit unto holiness. May an abounding progress in the work of the Lord be the result of an enlarged conception and a happy experience of the liberty wherewith the Saviour makes His people free. O let us not again be entangled by any yoke of bondage. Let us understand clearly, and cherish cordially, and maintain stedfastly, the principles of the doctrine of Christ. Knowing for what ends the Saviour died, and revived, and rose again, and feeling daily more and more strongly our vast and incalculable debt of gratitude to Him Who loved us, and gave Himself for us, may we resist every tendency from within, and every temptation from without, to return again unto folly. And remembering that they that are His have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts, may we daily mortify the deeds of the body, and cultivate the fruits of the Spirit, and aspire in all things at having a conversation such as becometh the Gospel of Christ.

To Thy care and kindness we commit ourselves this night, and for ever. Be very gracious to us, and to all who are dear to us. Encompass them and us with favour, as a shield. And all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O THOU Who art glorious in holiness, and of purer eyes than to look upon sin, we prostrate ourselves before Thee in humility and reverence. Our sins, O Lord, are a heavy burden; but we look to Him Who died upon the cross to take them away. We have no righteousness of our own; but we place our trust in Him who is the Lord our righteousness. We deserve Thy wrath, and might justly be left to suffer the consequences of our folly and our disobedience; but we commit our souls to Him Who bore our griefs, and carried our sorrows, Who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, upon Whom the chastisement of our peace was laid, and by Whose stripes we are healed.

While thus, O Lord, we rely on the exercise of Thy mercy in Christ Jesus, we pray that a sense of the evil of sin may be kept alive upon our minds. In our joy at believing the glad tidings of salvation, may we not lose sight of the humility and self-abasement that become us as sinners; nor cease, while we give thanks to God for Jesus Christ, to lament the body of sin and death with which we are encumbered. Let not our faith degenerate into presumption, nor our hope of pardon make us indifferent to the folly, ingratitude, and danger of transgression. Remembering the price that has been paid for our ransom, may we entertain a godly fear of falling again under the power of sin. By looking upon Him Whom our sins have pierced,

may we acquire views of the nature, the turpitude, and the consequences of sin, such as we never possessed before; and persuaded that sin is not only the cause of our ruin, but an evil and abominable thing, which is infinitely hateful to our Benefactor and Redeemer, which crucifies the Lord afresh, and does despite to the Spirit of grace, may we resolve, and by grace be enabled to be faithful to our resolution, to avoid the very appearance of evil, and to hate even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Nor let us ever be left to our own resources. In our vigilance against sin, and in our conflicts with our spiritual enemies, grant us the continual aid of Thy Holy Spirit. Amidst our daily struggles and temptations, may we experience that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world: and, notwithstanding the many discouragements by which we may be tried, may it be our privilege always to find that the Saviour's grace is sufficient for us, and that His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Take all of us under Thy protection this day. Look graciously also upon our friends. Unite them and us in Christ Jesus, as one household and one family. Bless all the family of the faithful scattered throughout the world. Increase the number of those that fear the Lord, and that call upon His name. May a common feeling of gratitude to their God and Saviour form a bond of hallowed and indissoluble alliance among all the children of God. In loving Thee, may they overlook lesser distinctions; and may they all be animated by one desire, that Thy name may be

hallowed, Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O THOU Who art the Holy One of Israel, and Who wilt be sanctified of all that draw nigh unto Thee, enable us to remember that holiness becometh Thy servants and Thy service for ever. We rejoice that in Christ Jesus Thou hast been pleased to manifest Thy mercy towards us, and to invite our approaches to Thee. Through Him we now draw nigh to Thy throne; and humbly depending on His atonement and righteousness, we now beseech Thee graciously to forgive all our sins, to heal all our spiritual diseases, to supply our manifold and pressing necessities, and, instead of dealing with us as we deserve, to crown us plenteously with loving-kindnesses and tender mercies.

Grant, O Lord, that a just and an affecting sense of our corruptions and wants may be given to us. Forbid that we should cherish mistaken conceptions of our character and attainments, imagining that we are something, while in truth we are nothing Let the natural tendency to self-deceit, which is ever apt to influence us in judging of our relation to Thee, and of our preparation for an eternal world, be restrained and subdued. May the veil be taken from our hearts: may the blindness of our understandings be removed:

in Thy light may we see light clearly; and with eyes divinely opened and illuminated, may we perceive, in its just extent, the depth of our misery as sinners, and the fulness, freeness, and fitness of the redemption that has been obtained for us by Jesus Christ.

While thus we are persuaded that in Him is everything which our utmost wants and most enlarged desires can call for, may we also remember that all is freely offered us of God, and that whosoever willeth may take of the water of life freely. Forbid, gracious God, that any of us should be unwilling to appropriate the blessings which Thy mercy has provided, and which it proffers to all in the Gospel of Thy Son. Let not any mistaken conception of Thy character, or of the purposes of the Saviour's mission, or of the individuals for whose use the blessings of salvation have been procured, hinder us from accepting the calls and invitations of Thy grace. May we all hearken to the voice of Him in Whom it has pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell. May we hear Him calling upon us to come unto Him, that we may partake of that which is good. May His voice reach us as the voice of authority and love; and graciously grant, that, melted by a love that passeth knowledge, and subdued by an authority which we feel to be that of a Sovereign, we may gratefully accept the blessings which are presented to us without money and without price, and receive eternal life as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Make us thankful, we entreat Thee, for the mercies of the past day. With renewed confidence in Thy

compassion and kindness, we now commend our bodies and our spirits to Thine almighty protection through this night. Watch over us and over all who are dear to us. May Thy good providence defend them and us from evil, and bestow on them and on us whatever may be necessary to our well-being in time and through eternity. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

We will extol Thee, O God our King; we will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Every day will we bless Thee; and we will praise Thy name for ever. We would this morning unite, O Lord, in giving Thee thanks for the many proofs of Thy goodness which we have individually experienced. Help us to call to mind the debt of gratitude under which Thou hast laid us, and to be suitably affected by all the goodness and truth which have marked the course of Thy daily providence towards us. Make us thankful for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, make us thankful for our spiritual privileges, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Blessed be Thy name, that on us the light of Divine revelation hath shined. Blessed be Thy name that to us the mercy promised to the fathers hath been made known, and that to us the tidings of

salvation by Jesus Christ have been addressed. O make us sensible of our obligations, and of our responsibility as the children of so many mercies. While, through Thy goodness, it is our privilege to enjoy the knowledge of Thy will, may grace be given us duly to value and diligently to improve the advantages with which we are entrusted. May we not be hearers of Thy Word merely, but may we be doers of it, and believers in it—laying it up in our hearts, prizing it as hid treasure, and giving all diligence to bring forth the fruits of it in our tempers and in our lives.

O Lord, forbid that any of us should consider the enjoyment of outward privileges and advantages a reason for indifference as to the use we make of them. May we remember that there is a danger of neglecting that salvation which Thou hast proclaimed to be a great salvation; and may we reflect, that if it be neglected everything is lost—that there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

May grace be given us to avoid consequences so awful. May we be induced by Thy Holy Spirit to give the more earnest heed to the things which Thy Word contains, lest at any time we let them slip. And may we live from day to day under the influence of a salutary fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into rest, any of us should seem to come short of it. Thus, gracious God, may we build up ourselves in our most holy faith; and praying in

the Holy Ghost, may we keep ourselves in the love of God, and look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Through this day help us to live under the influence of these sentiments and principles. In all we do may we consult Thy glory. And may Thy presence and blessing be abundantly with us and upon us.

Be very gracious to all our friends. Supply all their need, according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Look in compassion upon the dark places of the earth; and may the habitations of ignorance and cruelty speedily be brought within the sound, and under the transforming influence, of the Gospel of Christ.

Hear these our humble supplications, we beseech Thee. Forgive our unworthiness, and accept of us, for the sake of Him Whom Thou hearest always; and to Whom, with Thee and the blessed Spirit, One God, we ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, Whose we are, and Whom we ought continually to serve, we approach Thee this evening under a lively impression of Thy goodness to us during the past day. We thank Thee for our preservation from danger, and for every comfort and advantage in our lot. We thank Thee for

our health of body and soundness of mind; for our friends and kindred; and for all the sources of domestic, social, and personal enjoyment with which Thou hast blessed us. Especially we bless Thee that Thou hast not left us to walk in darkness, but hast commanded the light of the Gospel of Thy Son to shine around us. May a sense of Thy goodness abide upon our minds, and lead us to consider the improvement we have made of our privileges. May we be deeply humbled under a conviction of our past carelessness and ingratitude; and may we be led by Thy Holy Spirit, to apply to the Saviour to deliver us from the consequences of the guilt we have contracted, and to impart to us a new heart and a right spirit, that henceforward we may live devoted to Thee in the use and enjoyment of all Thy mercies.

We thank Thee, gracious God, that Thou art more ready to hear than we are to pray, and more willing to give than we are to ask. Under a confiding sense of the faithfulness of Thy promises, we now confess before Thee all our sins, and lay open before Thee all our emptiness and wants. We come to Thee destitute of all things, that Thou mayest enrich us; guilty, that Thou mayest pardon us; polluted, that Thou mayest sanctify us; miserable, that Thou mayest comfort us; helpless, and prone to wander and to fall, that Thou mayest take us by the hand, and lead us, and uphold us.

While the rich Thou sendest empty away, may we be among the hungry, Whom Thou fillest with good things. May such a sense of need be created

within us, that we shall hunger and thirst after righteousness, and desire and esteem the blessings of Thy grace more than our necessary food. And O do Thou, Whose bounty exceeds our utmost desires, pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy; bestow upon us those good things which surpass man's understanding; accomplish in our behalf the great and precious promises of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and grant that we, who have offended Thee, may be forgiven those things of which our conscience is afraid, and that we, whom sin hath emptied of all goodness, may receive those good things, of the least of which we are not worthy, but through the worthiness of Him through Whom we now presume to make our request known at Thy footstool.

To Thy goodness we also commend all our connections and friends. May their hearts be under the influence of Thy grace. May their outward circumstances be under the management of Thy wise and paternal providence. May all that they really need be given to them; and may all that would prove hurtful to them be withheld; and with all Thine appointments, as wisest and best, may they and we be devoutly and humbly satisfied.

To Thy gracious protection and guidance we especially commend the young. May those places in the Church and in the world, which the removal of Thy people leaves vacant, be filled by a new race that shall do Thee service. Instead of the fathers, let there come up the children. Nor let the room of those who have descended to the grave in Thy faith and fear, be merely

supplied. Let the people that praise Thee be as the drops of dew from the womb of the morning.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and accept of us, and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations: before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. We rejoice that we are permitted to look up to Thee, not only with veneration, but with confidence, and to regard Thee as always the same in love, and as exalted to show mercy. Whilst Thou turnest man unto destruction, and sayest, 'Return, ye children of men;' while all around us is moving away, and proclaiming itself unfit and unworthy to be the supreme object of our affections—blessed be Thy name, Thou presentest Thyself to us, and invitest us to seek that happiness in Thee, which we have in vain sought to find in any of Thy creatures.

Grant, gracious God, that while thus Thou callest on us to seek our true happiness by turning to Thee, our eyes may be opened to the folly and danger of preferring the things of time to those of eternity. While there be many that say, 'Who will show us any good;' while many are ignorant of the way of salva-

tion and of the true sources of genuine felicity; while our own hearts, ever prone to seek enjoyment at a distance from God, are prompting us to apply to broken cisterns that can hold no water,—may we be so guided by Thy Spirit, so directed and influenced by Thy grace, that the language of our hearts shall ever be, 'Lord, lift Thou upon us the light of Thy countenance, for this it is that shall put joy into our hearts.'

For this purpose, grant us, we beseech Thee, clear views of the Gospel of Thy grace. May we see that we have destroyed ourselves; and, under a deep and lively conviction of personal helplessness and demerit, may we rejoice in it as a faithful saying, and above all things worthy to be believed, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. As sinners, may we come to Thy Son; and in Him may we feel towards Thee as our reconciled God and Heavenly Father. May our affections be poured out towards Thee; and in Thee, and in Thy love, may they find full, and perpetual, and increasing repose and satisfaction.

O grant that we may delight ourselves in God; may we more and more experience the attractions of His love and of His character, and feel our hearts more powerfully drawn out towards Him, and fixed supremely on Him. And loving Him thus with all our hearts, may our affections be extended to all His ordinances and commandments, and to whatever is calculated to remind us of Him, or intended to prove our submission to Him.

Be with us, we beseech Thee, this day. May Thy hand be around us for good. Wherever we are, or

however employed, may we feel that Thou art with us, and that Thy right hand upholdeth us. May our friends share in Thy friendship. May comfort and relief be afforded to the poor and the afflicted; and may a suitable blessing and great grace be vouchsafed to all whom we should remember before Thee. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, we ascribe all honour and glory, both now and ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art the God in Whom we live, and move, and have our being. We bless Thee for all Thy care and kindness, for the bounty of Thy providence, the extent of Thy forbearance, and the riches of Thy grace. We thank Thee for bringing us in safety to the close of another day, and of another week; and now that we are in Thy presence, we would unite in grateful acknowledgments of our multiplied and unmerited obligations to Thy providential goodness and redeeming love. May the mercies of which we have been the objects all our life hitherto, excite us to diligence in Thy service; and may the future period of our lives be distinguished, not more by Thy goodness than by our active endeavours to dedicate ourselves and all that belongs to us to Thy glory.

Now that we are about to retire to rest, help us, we beseech Thee, to remember our past obligations, and to commit ourselves to Thee for time and for eternity,

as into the hands of a merciful and faithful Creator. While we acknowledge Thy goodness, and bless Thee for the proofs of it in our past experience, we would look back and consider wherein we have offended Thee. Humble us, we pray Thee, under a sense of our ingratitude and sinfulness. Fill us with deep and heartfelt sorrow, on account both of our omissions of duty, and our transgressions of Thy holy law; and, under a deep conviction of our guilt and depravity, help us now to look up to Thee for the application of the blood of sprinkling, which speaketh peace, and which cleanseth from all sin. May that blood, O Lord, be sprinkled on our consciences, and may each of us experience its power to purge the conscience from dead works, and to qualify us for the service of the living God.

In the prospect of another day of the Son of Man, and of a renewed approach to Thee in the services of Thy house, we this evening unite in supplicating a double portion of Thy Holy Spirit. If it please Thee, spare us to behold the light of Thy holy day; and when we awake, may we feel our minds divinely disposed and attuned for the hallowed exercises of Thy worship. May we enter into the rest of Thy people; may we be in the Spirit on Thy day; and may we be disposed and enabled by Thy grace gladly to disentangle our minds from worldly cares and worldly recollections, that without reserve or distraction we may devote them to the work and to the praise of the Lord our God.

We pray, gracious God, for all who shall then

worship with us. We pray for the whole household of faith—for all its members, wherever they may be; and we commend them, with all their diversified circumstances and necessities, to the care and the kindness of the Shepherd of Israel. Direct the inquiries of the young. Relieve the perplexities of the doubting. Remove the ignorance of the uninstructed. Give hope to the desponding, and comfort to the mourner. Excite the slothful to diligence, and confirm the active and zealous in their most holy faith.

Let sinners everywhere be converted. O do Thou, Who didst at first commission Thine apostles to preach the Gospel to every creature, open a way for the progress of Thy truth even to the ends of the earth. Wherever it is preached, may it come not in word only, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and with power. Let it have free course and let it be glorified, and let all the kingdoms of this earth speedily become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and let Him reign for ever and ever. And now unto Him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

# Fourth Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, Thou art our God; early will we seek Thee; our soul thirsteth for Thee; our flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. We bless Thee that we have been spared to see the light of this day; that not only have our lives been prolonged, but another day of the Son of Man has been vouchsafed us; and that, notwithstanding our past remissness in the improvement of our privileges, we are again called to go up to Thy house, to meet with Thy people, to hear Thy Word, and to unite in Thy service.

O may a sense of Thy goodness in thus multiplying our privileges, and in continuing with us means and mercies which might justly have been taken from us, sink down into our minds, and awaken us from that spiritual slumber in which we are too apt to indulge; may it stir us up to wait upon Thee in the exercise of all the sentiments and affections with which we ought to be animated in Thy presence. May Thy Word be sweet unto our taste, and come to each of us in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Let every prejudice that opposes its ready admission into our hearts be removed; let it appear to us in its native majesty and glory; and let it be felt by us to be what indeed it is, the Word of the living and true God,

which is able to make us wise unto salvation. With simplicity of heart may we hearken to what God the Lord will be pleased to say to us in it; and, as new-born babes, may we desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby.

In every part of our service, may we enjoy Thy assistance and blessing. In all our attempts to praise Thee, or to hold communion with Thee, may we find not only that we have a great High Priest over the house of God, through Whom we have access to Thy throne, but that the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities. Through the grace of Thy Spirit, may we be enabled so to engage in the exercises of Thy worship, and to hold fellowship with Thee in Thy house of prayer, that we shall have cause from experience to say, 'How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts. Our soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; our heart and our flesh crieth out for the living God.'

With ourselves, we would be mindful of all whom we ought to remember in our addresses at Thy throne. May Thy ministering servants especially enjoy Thy favour and assistance in every part of their duty. Taught of God, may they be fully qualified to teach others; and through their instrumentality, may Thy name be hallowed, and Thy Church built up: may sinners be converted, and saints edified and comforted.

In every part of the world, may the truth as it is in Jesus be proclaimed and believed. We rejoice in the promise, that the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and that all nations shall flow unto it. Hasten the accomplishment of this Thine own Word in Thine own time; and let the whole earth be filled with Thy glory!

All that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, both now and for evermore. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING

O LORD, we come before Thee this evening as Thy children and the sheep of Thy pasture; and we bless Thee for all the goodness and mercy we have this day experienced in our going out and in our coming in. We thank Thee that we have not only had food convenient for us, but that Thou hast made abundant provision for the wants of our souls, and hast invited us to partake of the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy place. Blessed be God, that we have this day been reminded of the virtue of the Saviour's death, and of the power of His glorious resurrection; and we humbly pray, that, recognising in the separation of this day from the other days of the week, a sign and a memorial of the completion of that work by which sin-offering was finished, and an everlasting righteousness was brought in, we may feel renewed encouragement to place our trust in the Saviour, and from faith in His blood to entertain

confidence toward Thee, and a good hope of eternal life.

And O grant that Thy Holy Spirit, as the fruit of the resurrection of the Saviour, may be shed on us abundantly, and that under His influence all the considerations derived from the Saviour's death and resurrection, may be made effectual to our redemption from the power of sin and the tyranny of Satan. May it be our privilege habitually to feel that Thy Spirit is with our spirits, counteracting the effect which the world is ever apt to have on us, applying a sovereign remedy to all the disorders of our nature, and disposing us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure.

We beseech thee, gracious and merciful God, to forgive the sins we have this day committed. Make us sorry for those offences of which we are conscious; discover to us those of which we may be ignorant; humble us under a sense of our sinfulness and exceeding proneness to undervalue and misimprove our greatest mercies and best privileges; and help us, in time to come, both to guard against our besetting sins, and to aim with greater earnestness at glorifying Thee, by a suitable improvement of our future Sabbaths, and of all the other means of grace with which we may be favoured.

We commend to Thy sympathy and regard such of our Christian brethren as have this day been necessarily prevented from waiting upon Thee in Thy house of prayer. Supply to them the loss of ordinances; sanctify to them the dispensations of Thy pro-

vidence; restore them, if it please Thee, to the enjoyment of the privileges of which, for the present, they are deprived; and enable them in the meantime to submit to Thy will, and to derive improvement from the means and advantages which are still within their reach.

To Thy kindness and care we commend the sick and the afflicted, the destitute, the tempted, the sorrowful, and the dying. Accommodate Thy grace to the necessities of all Thy children; and, whatever be their outward circumstances, let the heart of every one rejoice that seeks the Lord.

We commit to Thee our bodies and our spirits this night. Watch over us, we beseech Thee. If it please Thee, spare us to behold the light and to enjoy the comforts of another day. And be Thou our God and our portion for ever and ever. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O Lord, we thank Thee for our preservation during the past night, for the light of this day, and for the comfortable circumstances in which we are now permitted to meet together in Thy presence. Our souls would magnify the Lord, and our spirits would rejoice in God our Saviour. Under a deep sense of Thine unmerited goodness, we now lift up our souls to Thee;

and as children coming to a Father to Whom they are indebted for everything, we now appear at Thy throne, and beseech Thee to accept the sacrifices of a grateful, and a contrite, and an obedient heart.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that small as is this return for Thy goodness, we have it not of our own to render Thee, but must look up to Thee, not only for outward mercies and temporal expressions of Thy favour, but for the heart to love and the will to obey Thee. By nature our heart is cold and thankless, our affections set on earthly things, our whole soul estranged from Him that formed it. We lament that ours naturally is that carnal mind, which Thy Word hath pronounced to be enmity against God, and which is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

But we rejoice that that which is beyond the force of nature, Thou art able by Thy mighty power to accomplish; and we look up to Thee to accompany and to crown the many temporal blessings that enter into our lot, by the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, to destroy the enmity that is in us, and to reconcile us to the love and to the law of Thee our Heavenly Father, and our continual Benefactor.

In taking possession of our minds, may Thy Holy Spirit cast out from thence whatever exalteth itself, and is opposed to Thy supreme and sovereign authority. May He illuminate what is dark, and purify what is polluted; may He elevate what is mean, and correct what is disorderly. May He come into our souls with all His saving and sanctifying influences, and impart to our entire inner nature the character of His own

pure and perfect likeness. O may the temple which Thou didst originally consecrate for Thyself, be again sanctified and set apart for its rightful inhabitant; and instead of anger, and wrath, and clamour, and envy, and deceit, and malice, and covetousness, and uncleanness, may our souls be filled with the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

For this purpose, let Thy blessing follow the services in which we were yesterday engaged. May Thy Spirit take the truths we then heard, and imprint them on our memories, and apply them with saving power to our hearts. May the prayers we then presented at Thy footstool be answered in our experience during the course of this week; and may a sanctifying influence emanate from the exercises of Thy house and of Thy day, which shall accompany us into all places wheresoever we may go, and in all the occupations whatsoever in which we may engage.

To Thy goodness we commend all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence. May grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be their portion. And do Thou graciously hear us for them, for ourselves, for Thy people, and for all our brethren of mankind, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory, world without end. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, to Whom all blessing and praise belong, we thank Thee for our preservation during the past day; and with a grateful and confiding sense of Thy past goodness, we commit ourselves to Thy protection and care through the silence of this night. O may we be safe under the shadow of Thy wings; and while we are protected from danger, may we also be kept from sin. May Thy Holy Spirit take possession of our minds, and carry on His work within us even when we seem withdrawn from the ordinary sphere of sanctifying instruction and influence. When we awake, may we awake not only to the pursuits and business of life, but to grateful thoughts of God, and to diligence in His service. And thus, by all Thy goodness experienced largely both by night and by day, may we be kept stedfast and immoveable, abounding always in the work of the Lord, until it be Thy will to call us hence, to experience yet higher degrees of Thy liberality and love, in Thy house and kingdom above.

With ourselves, we would be mindful in Thy presence of all with whom we have this day had any intercourse. To Thy paternal regard and all-sufficient grace, we commend our connexions and friends. Nor would we limit our prayers to them alone: we beseech Thee to look favourably upon all our brethren of mankind. Before Thee, O Lord, unto Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid, we lament the many disorders that

abound in society. May Thy grace afford an all-powerful check to the prevalence of iniquity. We thank Thee that Thou hast turned the hearts of so many to Thyself. And we humbly pray that the transforming and renovating power of Thy Word and Spirit may daily become more decidedly apparent, both in the circle in which we move, and among the various kindreds and nations that dwell upon the face of the whole earth.

O Lord, we rejoice that Thou hast promised that the earth shall finally be full of the glory of the Lord, and that all the ends of the earth shall see Thy salvation. Hasten the accomplishment of this Thy promise in Thine own time. And, as Thou workest by instruments, excite Thy people to more fervent prayers, and to more zealous exertions, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed, the kingdom of grace advanced, and the kingdom of glory hastened.

In every place where Thy Word is preached, let it be accompanied with power from on high. Overlook and pardon the weakness of instruments; and though the treasure be in earthen vessels, let the excellency and the power manifestly be of God.

Where the Gospel is not preached, nor its joyful sound known, open a way for its progress and propagation. Let nothing be permitted successfully to withstand its diffusion among all the families of mankind. As all need its blessings, may it come as an angel of God to the dwellings of all: may it run, and have free course, and be glorified; that as sin hath everywhere reigned unto death, so may grace also in

like manner reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

These our prayers, gracious God, we humbly present at Thy footstool. Hear us in heaven Thy dwelling-place; and, when Thou hearest, forgive; and let the greatness of Thy mercy exceed the narrow measure of our defective petitions, for the sake of Thy dear Son, for Whom we bless Thee; and to Whom, with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O eternal and ever-blessed Spirit, One Jehovah, be all honour, might, majesty, and dominion ascribed, both now and ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, Who in the works of Thy hand hast shown to us Thy greatness and Thy might; to Thee, Who art all-powerful, we at this time come with all our weakness and infirmity, and we implore of Thee not only mercy to pardon, but grace to help us in our time of need. We have often done wickedly in Thy sight, and need Thy forgiveness; but while we bless Thee that with Thee there is forgiveness that Thou mayest be feared, we look forward to the future, and acknowledge, that unless Thou help us, we shall daily be trespassing on the exercise of Thy mercy, and that our iniquities like the wind shall carry us utterly away.

Unto Thee, therefore, O Lord, do we cry; be Thou the God of our defence. Inspire us, we entreat Thee, with a profound and lively sense of our own

insufficiency. Convince us that of ourselves we cannot think a good thought, nor do a sincerely holy act; and lead us, under a powerful conviction of personal poverty and weakness, to Him on Whose shoulder Thou hast laid the government of the house of David, Who opens and none shuts, and shuts and none opens. We rejoice that to Him we are invited at all times to come; and that from Him we are encouraged at all times to ask those blessings of which we are daily discovering our need. Out of His fulness may we receive, even grace for grace. And by Him and by His Spirit, may we be strengthened with all might in the inner man.

O Lord, maintain upon our minds an habitual impression of the necessity of living in close union to Him, if we would rise superior to our weakness, and obtain a habitual victory over our corruptions and our spiritual enemies. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, may we remember, no more can we, except we abide in Christ. Deeply impressed with our own weakness and His all-sufficiency, may we cultivate a progressively closer fellowship with Him, and aim at a more intimate and experimental knowledge of Him in all His gracious and saving relations—as our Prophet to instruct, our Priest to sanctify, and our King to defend, to govern, and to exalt us. Crucified with Christ, may we nevertheless live, and may the life we live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God; and may it not be so much we that live, as Christ that liveth in us.

And grant, gracious God, that this day we may

act on these principles, and enjoy this experience. May the prevailing sentiment of our hearts be love to Him Who loved us, and gave Himself for us; and the prevailing aim of our conduct, the glory of Him Who bought us with a price, and Who hath made us His own. Let us not be discouraged by fears within, or fightings without—by the strength of our corruptions or the assaults of our spiritual adversaries. Help us to remember, and cause us to feel, that greater is He that is for us than all they that can be against us; and in the strength of Him Who hath said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,' may we encounter trial, perform duty, or endure chastening, as the will of our Father and our God may be.

Now, unto Him Who is able to exceed our requests, be glory for ever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, we come before Thee this evening deeply sensible of our obligations to Thy goodness and mercy. Thou hast created, preserved, and redeemed us; we are wholly Thy property—the work of Thy hands, the objects of Thy bounty, and the monuments of Thy forbearance.

What have we which we have not received? And what is there which Thy liberality has bestowed, which we have not forfeited, and which Thou mightest not justly take from us? Our iniquities testify against us. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as chil-

dren, and we have rebelled against Thee; yet Thou hast been slow to mark our iniquities, or to call us to account for our unprofitableness and unworthiness. As a father pitieth his children, so hast Thou pitied and spared us.

May a sense of Thy goodness lead us to repentance. Not only hast Thou borne with us in the midst of multiplied and aggravated provocations, but Thou hast magnified Thy mercy by laying the burden of our iniquities upon Thine own Son, and sending Him into the world to suffer and to die in our room and in our behalf. We bless God for His unspeakable gift; and we entreat that Thy love to us in Him may be daily more and more shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost given unto us. May it fill our whole minds, influence our whole conduct, and, by its hallowed ardour, consume and destroy every interfering and unworthy affection. O may we be weaned from the world, by learning to love Him supremely Who is better to us than ten thousand worlds; and, actuated by this new and divine principle of devoted affection for Him Who first loved us, may we pass through life as pilgrims and strangers, not moved by the sorrows and changes that may befall us in our progress to another and a better world. Regarding everything as appointed and overruled by God—whether we be sorrowful or rejoicing; whether our lot be prosperous or adverse; whether, in the course of providence, we be lifted up or cast down—may we equally acknowledge with gratitude the hand of a Father in the good or the evil with which it may please Him to try

us. Never, O Lord, let us forget that He with Whom we have to do is infinitely wiser than we, and that all His ways towards His people are in mercy and truth. Assured of His love, and relying on His wisdom, may we feel that our lot is safest and best in His hands; and in whatsoever state we are, therewith may we be content. Thus, O Lord, enable us to pass through the wilderness of this life, leaning upon Thee: looking up to Thee for guidance; depending upon Thee for safety; casting all our care upon Thee; and studying more and more to merge and lose our wills in Thine, so that Thy will may be done by us on earth as it is done in heaven.

We beseech Thee, gracious God, to be with us this night. Bless, we pray Thee, all our relations and friends. May they and we be safe under the shadow of Thy wings! And may great grace be upon them and upon us continually, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our Father and our God, and the rock of our salvation, who is a strong Lord like unto Thee, and to Thy faithfulness round about Thee? Enable us, we beseech Thee, to worship in Thy fear; and while we look up to Thee with humble and reverential awe, may we also experience the blessedness of the people who know the joyful sound, and who walk in the light of Thy countenance. In Jesus Christ

may we behold the glory of Thy character; and in Thee, as revealed to us through Him, may we rejoice all the day, exulting in Thee as the glory of our strength, and placing our confidence in Thee, as the Holy One of Israel, our King.

Through Him, may each one now in Thy presence be justified from all things, be sanctified by Thy Holy Spirit, be received into the number of Thy children, and be made partakers of every benefit which flows from the death, the resurrection, the intercession, and in due time, the second coming of our Lord. Let not any of us, by indifference, by unbelief, by love of worldly pleasure, by the pursuit of worldly advantages, or by any other cause, exclude himself from a participation in the great and precious blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As to each of us the invitations of the Gospel are addressed, may each thankfully and joyfully hearken to the heavenly message. May Thy Holy Spirit open our understandings to understand and appreciate the value of heavenly and spiritual blessings; may He inspire us with a holy disrelish for the mere pleasures of sense and time; may He direct us to the Saviour as the source in which it hath pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell; and may He dispose and encourage us to place that simple, child-like, confiding, and affectionate faith in Him, which is the pledge of our receiving from Him all the blessings of redemption.

Begin, we beseech Thee, in the heart of each of us Thy good work; carry it forward, if it be already

begun. Give effect to all the means of grace in our experience. Direct us in our choice and use of means. Be a shelter and a defence to us from our spiritual enemies; restrain them in their endeavours to entice us from the path of duty, or to overpower us by the force of sudden and strong temptation. Excite in us, O Lord, a continual distrust of ourselves, and inspire us with a holy and stedfast dependence on Thy grace and power. Dispose us day by day to read Thy word, to plead Thy promises, to realize Thy presence, to meditate on Thy love, and to live by the faith of the Son of God. Thus, gracious and heavenly Father, keep alive within us the principles of spiritual life; weaken and destroy the passions and tendencies of our sinful nature; withdraw us from the power of this present evil world; and prepare us for the holiness and the happiness of Thy kingdom.

This day let Thy work and power proceed in our experience. May each of us be sensible that the hand of our God is upon us; that He is supplying us with fresh strength for duty or for trial; that He is making plain His way before us; and that He is carrying us forward to the completion of His gracious purposes in our behalf, in Christ Jesus. All that we ask is for Christ's sake; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Enable us to worship Thee under a deep sense of Thy glory and excellence; may we remember Who Thou art; and while angels and blessed spirits fall prostrate before Thy throne, in humble adoration of Thy perfections, may we, the creatures of yesterday, lie low at Thy footstool, in astonishment at the condescension and grace of Him, Who, though the Creator and Sovereign of the universe, yet permits us to approach Him with confidence, and to call Him our Father.

With the hearts of children, enable us at this time to draw nigh to Thy throne. While sensible that in ourselves we are altogether unworthy to lift up our eyes to the place where Thou dwellest—unworthy to ask for the smallest mercy, and undeserving of anything but the visitations of Thy displeasure, may we also feel that in Jesus Christ we have an advocate with the Father, Whom the Father heareth always, and Whose applications the Father will never refuse to answer. Committing our cause to Him, may we feel persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed to Him; and in full assurance of His ability to save to the uttermost, may we rise above every slavish fear, and joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, as our God and the God of our salvation.

And grant, O Lord, that we may carry this enlarged and filial spirit into the discharge of every

duty, and be sustained by it under the pressure of every trial and affliction. Regarding God as our God, may we welcome every opportunity of serving and glorifying Him. May we hesitate at no act of self-denial, and repine at no degree of suffering, by which the strength of our devotedness to God our Saviour may be tried. O grant that, in the midst of all the calls that may be made on our faith and patience, we may ever rejoice and be glad in the thought that it is the will of our Heavenly Father we are accomplishing, and that the discipline which He appoints is necessary to fit us for the inheritance which, as His children, He is preparing for us.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for the many proofs we have already experienced of Thy fatherly goodness. We thank Thee for the temporal tokens we are daily receiving of Thy regard; but above all, we bless Thee for Jesus Christ, Thine unspeakable gift, and for all Thy loving-kindness displayed to us in Him. Let Thy good hand be around us this night. Under a confiding sense of Thy goodness, we now commit our bodies, our spirits, and all that concerns us, to Thy protection. Be with us and with all who are dear to us. Be their God, and our God, for ever and ever. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

We approach Thee, O Lord, as the Most High over all the earth; and we adore Thee as infinitely ex-

alted above our praises and conceptions. We rejoice that Thou art not only great, but good; that Thou not only dwellest in eternity, but hast a temple in every contrite heart; that Thou art not only the Lord of angels and of men, but the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him the covenant God and Father of all who believe.

With sorrow and self-abasement, we would reflect on our state as sinners. We acknowledge before Thee, that we have fallen by our iniquities. We are not in the condition in which Thou didst originally create our nature: by transgression we have wandered to an awful distance from Thee; we have lost the desire to know, the heart to love, and the will to glorify Thee.

But what shall we say, O Lord, when we think of the abounding mercy of our God! Where sin abounded, glory be to God, grace hath much more abounded. We rejoice that the circumstances which displayed the vileness and unworthiness of our nature, have been made to afford the most glorious evidences of Thy forgiving mercy, and that out of the ruins of our fall, Thou hast raised an eternal monument to the praise of the glory of that grace wherein we are accepted in the Beloved.

We pray, gracious God, that we may be enabled to look into the mystery of redemption with minds profoundly impressed with the glory of those perfections that shine in every part of it. We would regard it as a mystery, the wonders of which can never be explored, as a revelation of the greatness and goodness

of Thy character, which can never cease to afford new objects of admiration, and new themes of praise. And while angels desire to look into these things, O may we remember the nearer and deeper interest which we ought to take in them. May we regard them, not as speculations, but as all-important realities; not as a series of wonders in which we have no interest, but as truths affecting the life and happiness of our souls for eternity. In the plan of redemption, may we behold a plan formed to save us; in Jesus Christ, may we recognise the Divinely-appointed Redeemer and Friend of our souls; in the invitations of the Gospel, may we hearken to the calls of God addressed to ourselves; and in the promises and offered benefits of the Gospel, may we discern the blessings adapted by Divine wisdom for the recovery and happiness of our souls.

And while thus, O Lord, we take these views of the glorious plan of redeeming love, may it be our anxious and habitual concern to obtain and to preserve a personal and saving interest in it. By faith may we be united to the Saviour; and through Him may we become partakers of all the blessings which He died to procure, and which He now lives to dispense, and which are presented to us in all their fulness in the Gospel of Thy grace. Believing in Him, may we receive continually from Him, and grow up unto Him in all things; attaining daily a closer resemblance to Him, living daily less unto ourselves and more unto Him, and becoming progressively better prepared to meet Him at His coming, and to be with Him where He is, through endless ages.

Be with us, we pray Thee, through this day. May we and all who are dear to us experience Thy care, enjoy the bounties of Thy providence, and share in the riches of Thy grace. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life; and let us dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and accept of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O Lord, at the close of another day, we desire to give Thee thanks for our preservation, and for all the comforts of our lot. Thou hast been with us to protect us from dangers which we could neither foresee nor prevent. It is Thy hand that hath been opened to supply our returning necessities; and it is because Thy compassions fail not, that, notwithstanding our folly and ingratitude, we have been brought in safety to the close of this day, and are now permitted, in confiding reliance on Thy goodness, to commit our bodies, our spirits, and all our interests, into Thy hands this night, for time and for eternity.

Accept, we beseech Thee, the thanksgivings of our hearts, for all Thy past goodness. Pardon, we pray Thee, the coldness of our thanks, and the insincerity that is ever apt to mingle with our gratitude. And O do Thou, Who art the Author and Giver of all that is spiritually as well as temporally good, add to

the value of Thine outward gifts, by teaching us to see Thee in them all, to accept of them as from Thy hand, and to use them to Thy glory.

We lament before Thee, O Lord, the sins we have this day committed. We lament our evil nature, and our constant proneness to fall into the commission of what is displeasing to Thee, our bountiful Benefactor, and our omniscient Witness. We lament before Thee all the disorders of our minds, all the irregularities of our practice, all our known and all our secret offences. Unto us, O Lord, belong shame and confusion of face. Labouring and heavy laden by reason of our remembered unworthiness, we would lay aside every high thought and every lofty imagination; we would submit ourselves to the righteousness which is of God by faith; and renouncing all confidence in ourselves or in any refuge of lies, we would come unto Thee through Him Who is the way, and the truth, and the life, and Who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.

We rejoice to know and to be assured, that with Him there is forgiveness. We rejoice that His name is Jesus, because He saves His people from their sins. Blessed be His name, there is no sinner desirous of being saved who is not warranted to throw himself upon the exercise of His compassion, and to believe that He will receive him graciously and love him freely.

Through Him, O Lord, we desire to come unto Thee; and, for His sake, we beseech Thee to wash us from our iniquity, and to cleanse us from our sin.

Let not our sins stand between us and Thee, darkening our views of Thy character, and damping our hopes of Thy mercy. Let them not be as a cloud, intercepting the beams of Thy favour, and excluding us from that comfortable sight of Thy countenance, that reviving and animating sense of Thy gracious presence, and that invigorating and joyful experience of the influences of Thy Spirit, without which we can neither be safe nor happy.

And while Thou forgivest our sins, be pleased also, O Lord, to deliver us from the dominion of sin itself. Let not sin reign in our mortal bodies. May its influence over us daily be more and more weakened. And may it be our experience that the salvation of the Gospel is complete; extending to the character as well as to the state, and consisting not more in redemption from the fear of hell, than in preparation for the bliss of heaven.

To Thee, O Lord, as our covenant God in Jesus Christ, we this night commit ourselves. Be gracious to our friends. Increase the number of Thy faithful people. Accompany the means of grace everywhere with an abundant and effectual blessing. Let Thy Spirit be poured out from on high, and let the time be hastened when the kingdoms of this earth shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we come before Thee this morning, believing that Thou art, and that Thou art the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. Help us, we beseech Thee, not only to worship in Thy fear, but to delight ourselves in Thee, and to pour out our hearts before Thee, in a spontaneous current of devout affection and holy child-like confidence.

And, while the desires of our souls are towards Thee, and towards the remembrance of Thy name, be pleased, O Thou That art seated on high, to bend a propitious ear to the voice of our supplications. Our praises cannot exalt Thee, yet accept of them; our thanksgivings fall infinitely short of our obligations, yet let them come up before Thee as our bounden service and willing tribute; and though, in our confessions of sin, we may discover much self-ignorance, and much misconception of the evil of the sins we acknowledge; and though in our petitions we may betray the carnality and earthliness of our dispositions, yet let the greatness of Thy mercy overlook and forgive the many defects of our addresses at Thy throne, and suffer them to ascend before Thee as incense, and as an acceptable sacrifice.

We bless Thee, that though we are sinful and have done wickedly, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Blessed be the name of our God, that He Who assumed our nature, and bore the burden of our sins, is infinitely mighty to

save; and that, as in the days of His flesh He travelled in the greatness of His strength, so, now that He hath ascended to His throne, and hath all things put under Him, He is infinitely able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. We rejoice to look back to the days of His humiliation, when, as the suffering Lamb of God, He took away the sin of the world. Nor with less joy and holy exultation, would we now look up to Him, as the Lamb in the midst of the throne, before Whom all the hosts of heaven bend in prostrate adoration, ascribing blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, unto Him and to His Father.

We rejoice that such an High Priest is ours, in Whom we may confide. We rejoice that the arm to which we look for deliverance, is the arm of omnipotence; that the wisdom on which we depend for counsel, is the wisdom which planned the universe, and which is unerring; that the blood through which we hope for pardon, is the blood of God's own Son; and that the salvation by which we are to be saved from hell and raised to heaven, has been procured, and is now dispensed, by one Whom the Father hath highly exalted, and to Whom He hath given a name that is above every name.

Rejoicing in Him, and depending on Him, we would proceed through life. And we beseech Thee, gracious God, to grant that the lives which are spent in professed faith in His merits and in dependence on His grace, may be devoted to His praise. This day, and every day we live, may we make it our business

to cleave closer to Him, to receive more abundantly from Him, and to employ the gifts of His bounty, and the communications of His grace, in a way that shall contribute to His glory. May He help us when we are weak; comfort us when we are sorrowful; direct us when we are perplexed; and sensible that in Him are all our well-springs, that from Him are all our comforts, that with Him we have all things and abound, while without Him we are nothing—may we cultivate from day to day a closer communion with Him, and make Him all our desire Whom we acknowledge to be all our salvation.

Now unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

We will bless Thee, O Lord, at all times; and Thy praise will we have continually in our mouths. Our soul will make her boast in Thee, and all that is within us will bless and magnify Thy name. We thank Thee for what Thou hast been to us in the days that are past; for the mercies that still flow to us from Thy gracious hand; and for all those bright and happy prospects that have dawned upon us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to Thy name for our personal experience of Thy kindness; for the tenderness that watched over our infant years; for

the mercy that appointed our lot in a land of religious knowledge and improvement; for the patience that bore with our perverseness and self-confidence in the season of childhood and youth; for the wise and paternal providence displayed in the circumstances of our outward condition; for the unceasing vigilance that hath guarded us from danger; and for the daily and hourly liberality that strews our path with mercies and loving-kindnesses, though we are not worthy of the least of them.

And, O Lord, have we not other and higher mercies to acknowledge? Hast Thou not given us Thy Son to redeem us from the lowest hell? And hast Thou not with Him promised freely to give us all things requisite to prepare us for the transcendent bliss of heaven? We thank Thee for every impression which Thy Holy Spirit may have made upon our minds, whereby the unspeakable value of heavenly and eternal blessings has been recognised by us; and the desire to obtain them, and the purpose of heart to seek after them, have been awakened within us. O may the impressions Thou hast already been pleased to make upon our minds, be renewed, and deepened, and confirmed.

Though the world may tempt us to forget that we have souls, and that there is another world for which we have to prepare, may we steadily look forward, and anticipate the hour, when all that are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man, and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto

the resurrection of damnation. In the midst of those who are absorbed in the pursuit of objects that are soon to lose their value, and who spend their time in asking, 'What shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?' O may we, inspired by the truest wisdom, ponder the inquiry, 'What must we do to be saved?' and act upon the answer which in mercy Thou hast been pleased to make to it, by believing in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, as Thou hast given us commandment.

Our hearts, O Lord, are evil and deceitful, but do Thou restrain, and renew, and turn, and direct them. Let them not mislead us; let them not impose on us; let not their native indisposition to what is spiritual make us indifferent; let not their native pride make us unwilling to accept of a free salvation; let not their native insincerity induce us to be satisfied with imperfect and transient signs of grace.

Be Thou, O gracious Parent of all good, the author of our religion. Place it deep in our hearts. Let it be founded on humility, cemented by faith, animated by love, and crowned by all the fruits and works of the Spirit. What Thou hast begun be pleased to carry on. Watch over Thine own work: add daily whatever may be necessary to its progress and completion; supply what may be lacking in it; and bring it forth at last, a glorious production of Thy grace and power—a source of endless thanksgiving from us, of admiration to angels, and of honour to Thy great name.

Be with us, we entreat Thee, during this night.

Watch over us and over all who are dear to us. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory and honour, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU by Whom we have been preserved during the past night, we come before Thee this morning with thanksgiving, and rejoice in Thee as the rock of our salvation. We thank Thee that Thou hast been pleased to bring us to the light of this day. But, above all, we bless Thee that, through the tender mercy of our God, the day-spring from on high hath also visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace. Grant, O Lord, that we may rejoice in this light, and come to it, and walk in it. And O do Thou, Who art the Father of lights, and the giver of every good and perfect gift, be pleased, not merely to confer upon us the outward means of grace, but to send Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, to render these means effectual for our improvement and salvation. Let it not be the condemnation of any now in Thy presence, that light hath come into the world, but that we have loved darkness rather than light, because our deeds were evil. By Thy grace, may our souls become the seats of Divine and heavenly light; let the light of Thy glory as it

shines in the face of Jesus Christ, shine into our minds; and beholding, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, may we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Let Thy hand be around us this day for good. May the goodness which hath marked all Thy dealings with us continue to follow us. May a blessing accompany all the bounties of Thy providence; and may Thy grace also enable us to derive profit from all the dispensations by which we may be exercised and tried. Incline us, in our respective spheres, to aim at Thy glory. Let us not fall under the power of any sin; but with every temptation grant us a way of escape, or impart to us the needful strength, that we may be able to bear it. Under the crosses and vicissitudes that may try our temper and our patience, help us to keep in view the example of our blessed Lord, and, in all our intercourse with mankind, to tread in the footsteps of Him who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.

Be very gracious, we beseech Thee, to all our friends. Sanctify them by Thy Holy Spirit. May each of them be a member of Jesus Christ, united to Him by a living faith, and a partaker, through that union of all the privileges and hopes of the children of God.

Dwell in our native land. Let Thy blessing rest on the head of Thy servant our sovereign the Queen.

Counsel our Queen's counsellors, and teach the senators wisdom. Endow all rulers and magistrates with the spirit of their office; and diffuse among all ranks and conditions of men the principles of the Gospel of Christ. Multiply everywhere the number of Thy faithful people; accompany Thy Word with power from on high; and hasten the time when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for it, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

These our prayers we present at Thy footstool, pleading the merits and relying on the all-prevailing intercessions of our great High Priest, Who, with Thyself and the Holy Spirit, is One God, to Whom be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art our God, and we will praise Thee, our fathers' God, and we will exalt Thee. At the close of this day and of this week, we desire to remember all the way by which Thou hast led us, and to acknowledge with gratitude our unceasing obligations to Thy liberality and goodness. From the moment we came into existence to the present hour, Thou hast watched over us. From day to day, Thou hast given us our daily bread. Thou hast protected us in the midst of many unseen dangers; Thou hast delivered us from innumerable evils, and bestowed upon us countless mercies; and by Thy good hand upon us, we are now among the living to praise Thee,

notwithstanding the many perils to which we have been exposed, and notwithstanding our unworthiness of the care and forbearance which Thou hast been pleased to exercise towards us.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for all the circumstances that enter into our lot. Blessed be God, that we are not limited in our views to this present world, nor required to seek a portion for our souls among its frail and perishing possessions. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

May our hearts acknowledge the value of these hopes and prospects; and instead of setting our affections on things below, may we be raising them to those that are above. May the concerns of religion become more and more the business of our lives, and the care of our souls the one thing needful. In the midst of all the temptations by which we may be assailed from prosperity or adversity, may we maintain a stedfast and an onward course. And as day follows day, and week succeeds week, may our progress in the way to heaven advance; till at length, through the grace of Thy good Spirit, we be found in some measure meet for entering in within the gate into the city, and for participating in those joys which are at Thy right hand, and which are for evermore.

To Thee and to Thy merciful protection we now commend ourselves this night. Prepare us, we entreat Thee, for the services and engagements of Thy holy day. May we be in the Spirit on Thy day; may we rejoice when it is said to us, 'Go up to the house of the Lord;' and may our manner of spending Thy day, and of attending on the ordinances of Thine appointment, be in anticipation of that eternal Sabbath which is reserved for Thy people in heaven.

Let Thy special blessing be upon Thy ministering servants; may Thy Church everywhere be built up. May Thy people be multiplied; and may their zeal, their exertions, and their prayers, in behalf of the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, be crowned with a rich and an effectual blessing. Let those who have gone forth to preach the Gospel in distant and heathen lands be assisted and comforted by Thee in all their labours of love, and under all their trials and privations, their disappointments, their fears, and their sorrows.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, gracious God, and accept of us and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

# Fifth Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, Thou art over all, and art rich in mercy unto all that call upon Thee. On this, the morning of Thy day, we desire to separate ourselves for Thy service. We acknowledge our sinful proneness to confine our views to this present world, and our foolish tendency to adopt as a portion the objects and enjoyments which disappoint our expectations, and which perish in the using. We thank Thee that in mercy Thou hast interposed a check to the worldly tenor of our desires and pursuits. O may we be in the Spirit on this Thy day! May we fully enter into its hallowed design; and may He to Whom the day belongs, graciously be pleased to meet with us and bless us. As the good Shepherd of the sheep, who knoweth His flock by name, may He suffer none of us to want. May He lead us in green pastures and by still waters, and cause each of us to experience that Thine ordinances are as a fountain of gardens, a well of living springs, and streams from Lebanon.

Thou art acquainted with the circumstances and peculiar necessities of each one now before Thee. May He who feeds His flock like a shepherd, gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom. May He vouchsafe His presence and grace

to all with whom we shall worship; and as a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered, so let Him seek out His people everywhere, and adapt Himself this day to their diversified cases and wants. May He seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away: may He bind up that which is broken, and strengthen that which is sick; upon the high mountains of Israel may He cause their fold to be, and in a good pasture may He feed them. May one Shepherd be over them, Who shall feed them, even Thy servant David: may He feed them, and be their Shepherd.

To Thy mercy, O Lord, we thus commend ourselves and all our fellow-worshippers, and all Thy true people scattered throughout the world. Meet with them and with us, O Lord; and commune with us from off Thy mercy-seat. Without Thee, Sabbaths are but days of clouds and thick darkness; ordinances but as wells without water; and the society of Thy people but a joyless and unprofitable fellowship. Let Thy presence be with us, and our darkness becomes light; our thirsty souls are refreshed and satisfied; our emptinesss is turned into fulness, and our mourning into joy. Through the ministrations of Thy servants, let Thy Word reach our souls. In our applications to Thy throne, may we experience the gracious and comforting assistance of Thy good Spirit; and in our attempts to praise Thee, may our hearts be touched as with a live coal from off Thine altar, and send up lively expressions of grateful and

devout acknowledgment, as clouds of acceptable incense to Thy throne in heaven.

O let not the sins that cleave to us, the imperfections that stain our best services, the low and worldly thoughts that are apt to intrude upon us in our holiest moments, repel Thee from us, or induce Thee to hide Thy face from us. But remember us, O Lord, with the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people; visit us with Thy salvation. And all that we ask is for the sake of Him Who died for us, and Who rose again; to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be all glory for ever. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

O Lord, with Whom is the residue of the Spirit, pour down upon us, we beseech Thee, of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may now present to Thee an offering in righteousness, while we call upon the name of the Lord.

On this the evening of Thy day, we would remember all Thy goodness, and bless Thee for it; we would remember all our unworthiness; and while we deprecate Thy displeasure, we would sing aloud of Thy past forbearance and tender mercy. Under a lively impression of the claims of Thy goodness, we would now repeat the vows our lips have uttered in Thy sanctuary, and beseech Thee to accept of us and to bless us as Thine own. We lament that even this day, set apart for Thy service, has afforded but too

many testimonies to the evil that dwelleth in us, to the frailty that belongs to our best purposes, and to the imperfection that attaches to our sincerest endeavours to do Thy will. To us, O Lord, belong at all times shame and confusion of face. And after we have done all, what can we say but, 'God be merciful to us sinners.' Be merciful unto us, O God, be merciful unto us!

For the sake of Thy dear Son, let all the sin that hath followed us into Thy house and defiled our services, be taken away and forgiven. Let the prayers and praises we presented before Thee, come up before Thee as incense. Let Thy Word, which we have heard, be imprinted on our memories, and sealed by Thy Holy Spirit on our hearts. May the fruit of our engagements and exercises this day, be a growing acquaintance with Thy blessed Word, and a more satisfactory experience of the power of Thy Spirit to apply its instructions and its promises, its warnings and its consolations, with Divine energy and saving effect to our souls. Into the business and concerns of ordinary life, may we carry the recollection of the truths we have heard; and may the sanctifying impression which these truths have made on us, be manifest in our temper and deportment many days hence.

And this, O Lord, which we ask for ourselves, we beseech Thee to grant in the instance of all who have worshipped with us. Let nothing come between Thy people and an answer to the prayers and supplications they have this day presented at Thine altar. In

an especial manner, be pleased to look favourably upon Thy servants, who have published Thy message in the hearing of their fellow-men. Accompany their ministrations with Thy Spirit; and let none of them have reason to complain, that they have laboured in vain and spent their strength for nought.

Visit, in great compassion, the dwellings of Thy people who by Thy providence have been prevented from waiting upon Thee in the services of Thy house. May they feel that where there is the sincere desire to seek Thee, there Thou makest Thine abode. Look in mercy also, we beseech Thee, on those who despise Thy Sabbaths and neglect Thine ordinances. Lay not their sin, O Lord, to their charge; but in mercy open their eyes to the greatness of their guilt and the magnitude of their danger.

To Thee and to the protection of Thy power, and the grace of Thy Spirit, we commend ourselves this night. Let goodness and mercy follow us continually, and let us dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. And now, unto Him Who hath loved us, and given Himself for us, to God even the Father, and to the Spirit of all grace, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

Unto Thee do we lift up our eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. We thank Thee for the opportunity we yesterday enjoyed of waiting upon Thee in Thine ordinances. We thank Thee for Thy

Sabbaths and for Thy sanctuary, for the communion of saints, and for every means of religious knowledge and improvement which it is our privilege to possess. May the remembrance of the truths we yesterday read and heard follow us during the whole course of this week, and may we be enabled to put in practice every lesson of Thy holy Word, and to be faithful to every engagement under which our appearance in Thy house has brought us, so that we may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We entreat Thee, gracious God, to accompany, both in our own experience and in that of all in whom we are in any way interested, the dispensation of Thy Word with Thine effectual blessing. May the principles of the Gospel of Christ daily take the place of those evil, selfish, and worldly principles, under which we are all naturally too prone to act. May the knowledge of Christ and of Him crucified daily become more generally diffused; and may it rise to that importance in the estimation of those who receive it, which its transcendent excellence and blessed tendency demand for it. In comparison of it, may nothing else appear to be of value; and for the sake of it, may we be willing to sustain the loss of all things, and to count the loss as nothing.

Be with Thy servants who put their lives in hazard, for the sake of imparting its blessings to the benighted inhabitants of distant and heathen lands. Accompany them in their progress of beneficence: compensate them by Thy presence and blessing, for all their sacri-

fices in the cause of Christ: be to them as a little sanctuary in the midst of their enemies—as streams of water in the burning and thirsty wilderness—as a friend that sticketh closer than a brother in their painful and solitary travail.

Let Thy promise of old respecting the heathen come up before Thee, O Lord, in acceptable remembrance. Have respect unto Thy covenant; and let Thy Son speedily have the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. Overrule all events with a view to this glorious and predicted consummation; and while kings of the earth set themselves, and rulers take counsel together, let Him that sitteth in the heavens hasten, by means of instruments willing and unwilling, that day of grace, that day of power, when all ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Him.

Diffuse abroad in our own land a more deep and lively sense of the value of personal religion; and under a persuasion that there is no blessing like the Gospel, and no act of benevolence comparable to that of imparting this blessing to those who want it, may new efforts be made, and plans devised, and prayers offered up, that Thy way may be more extensively known upon the earth, and Thy saving health experienced by all nations—that the people may praise Thee, yea, that all the people may praise Thee.

Be very gracious to us, O Lord, this day. Let Thy wisdom direct, and Thy right hand uphold us; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with

the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, on Whom we continually depend, we thank Thee that Thou hast spared us during another day, and preserved to us unimpaired those mercies and privileges for which we had reason to bless Thee when we last met together in Thy presence.

We acknowledge that we are less than the least of Thy mercies, and that it is of Thy mercy we are not consumed. But while we lament our sinfulness, we rejoice in the extent of Thy compassion, and would magnify the riches of Thy long-suffering patience and forbearance. Forbid that, because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, any of us should set in our hearts to do evil. Let us not misconstrue Thy forbearance, and dream that we shall have peace, though we walk in the sight of our own eyes, and after the counsel of our own hearts. O may we be of those whom Thy goodness leads to repentance, who, melted by a love which they have not deserved, by a forbearance and mercy which they had little reason to expect, throw away the weapons of their rebellion, blush, and are ashamed to think of their opposition to the God Who made and is willing to redeem them, and resolve, that in time to come, whether they live, they will live unto the Lord, whether they die, they will die unto

the Lord, whether they live or die, they will be the Lord's.

For this purpose, open our eyes, we beseech Thee, to the great love Thou hast manifested in Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast not spared, but delivered up to the death for sinners, and through Whom Thou art now reconciling the world unto Thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. According to Thy promise, pour out upon us the Spirit of grace and of supplications, that, looking upon Him Whom we have pierced, we may mourn for Him as one mourneth for an only son, and be in bitterness for Him as one that is in bitterness for a first-born. May the love of sin be thus crucified within us; may its iron yoke be broken. Redeemed from its authority, may we become the servants of God; and as no longer our own but His, may we endeavour, by conformity to His will, and diligence in His service, and patient submission to His appointments, to glorify Him in our bodies and in our spirits, which He hath bought with a price.

To Thy watchful providence we commend ourselves this night. May we, and all whom Thou hast connected with us by the ties of nature or of affection, enjoy the sleep which Thou hast promised to Thy beloved. Spare us and them, if it please Thee, to see the light of another day; and with thankful hearts, and a renewed determination to be faithful and diligent in Thy service, may we and they enter on the duties of our respective situations, assured of Thy favour, and believing that in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We beseech Thee, gracious God, to extend Thy mercy to all whom we should remember in Thy presence. May the poor and the needy, the afflicted, the tempted, and the dying, share in Thy regard. Remember them, O Lord, according to their necessities and circumstances; and let Thy mercy toward them be very great.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, gracious God, and accept of us, and bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth. Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens. Wherever we turn our eyes, we behold monuments of Thy power, and lively evidences of Thy presence and character. But while thus, O Lord, Thou hast left the impression of Thy perfections upon the things which Thou hast made, we lament that sin has spread a veil over our eyes, so that we are naturally blind to what Thou hast so clearly and graciously revealed. We mourn the darkness which sin has introduced into our understandings; the coldness and aversion towards God which it has produced in our hearts; the desire with which it has inspired us to escape from the thought of Him in Whom we live, and move, and have our being; and the fatal facility with which it enables us to overlook or to forget the manifest proofs of Thy sovereign power and fatherly goodness, with which we are everywhere and at all times surrounded.

But we give Thee thanks, that Thou hast not cast us off, though we have departed from Thee. Thou hast given us Thy Word as a light shining in a dark place, to recall us to a remembrance of Thee, and to show us the way to everlasting life. We bless Thee for Jesus Christ—for the doctrines He taught, and the works He performed; for the life He led, and the example He left; for the sufferings He endured, and the death He died. We bless Thee for all the methods He took to reveal the Father unto us, and to bring us nigh to Him in affection and grateful confidence. But, above all, we bless and magnify Thee for the atonement He offered for our sins; for that full, perfect, and sufficient satisfaction to Thine offended justice which He consummated on the cross; and for that lively and comforting assurance He hath afforded of the Father's good will towards us, by His resurrection from the dead, and ascension into glory. We rejoice that thus the Father hath once more been revealed to us, and that, notwithstanding the breach which sin hath made between us and Him, we are once more encouraged to look up to Him, and confide in Him as our reconciled God and Heavenly Father.

O grant, we beseech Thee, that, affected by the manifestation of Thy character in Thy Son, we may open our hearts and admit Thee to that place in our affections which is rightfully Thine own. Let Thy Spirit reveal Thee to us, in a manner that shall overpower the resistance and subdue the enmity of our corrupt natures. Let the hardness of our hearts be

exchanged for contrition and brokenness of spirit; let the rebellion of our wills give place to affection and godly fear; let all old things pass away, and in their room let all things be made new; and let us, who by nature have wandered from Thee, and are far from righteousness, give ourselves up to Thee in a perpetual covenant, never to be broken or forgotten.

To Thee, as Thine, we this day commend ourselves. We bless Thee for the sleep of the past night, and for all the comforts of our waking hours. Be the God of our friends; reward our benefactors; forgive our enemies. Look in compassion upon the poor and the friendless, the afflicted and the dying. Be very gracious unto them, and unto all whom we should remember in Thy presence. May great grace be upon them and upon us. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

HEAR our cry, O God; attend unto our prayer. To Thee we come with all our wants and infirmities: we come destitute of every personal recommendation; we found our plea and our hope solely on Thy mercy, and on the merits and intercession of Thy dear Son. In ourselves there is nothing which is not calculated to fill us with despair; but we remember, and we dwell on the remembrance with gratitude and thanksgiving, that we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and that Him the Father

heareth always. Through Him, therefore, we now lift up our eyes unto Thee, trusting that Thou wilt have mercy upon us.

Truly our soul waiteth upon God; from Him cometh our salvation. We exult, O Lord, in the inexhaustible variety of the blessings which are to be found in Thee; and we rejoice that all these blessings have been procured for us, and are now presented to us, as the free gifts of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. O let nothing stand in the way of our being enriched by them. Let not our folly undervalue them, nor our thoughtlessness neglect them. Let not the pleasures nor the cares of the world induce us to postpone an application for them; nor let our self-righteousness render us unwilling to make the application through the appointed and only medium through which they can be conveyed to us. Let none of the difficulties that attend the acquisition of them, tempt us to relinquish the pursuit, or even to relax our diligence or slacken our exertions; but, satisfied of their worth, and anxious above all things to obtain them, may we so run, not as uncertainly, and so fight not as one that beateth the air, and count all things but loss, that we may win Christ, and be found in Him, in Whom it hath pleased the Father that all the blessings of salvation should dwell.

And for this purpose grant us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, to dwell with us for ever. And when at any time we are ready to lose the impression of Divine and heavenly truths, and to resign ourselves

to the power of this present evil world, and in its business or its pleasures to lose sight of the supremely important interests of our souls and of eternity, may He recall us to a sense of our danger and of our duty. May He be to our souls as the daily falling and reviving dew. Under the influences which it is His office to dispense, may our souls, which by nature are as the dry and parched land, become as a fruitful field, and may the fruitful field be converted into a forest, and may our whole soul, and spirit, and body, be as a garden which the Lord hath blessed.

With a grateful sense of all the goodness which we have this day experienced, we now commit our bodies and our spirits to Thy protecting and gracious providence this night. Forgive the sins we have committed; accept the services we have attempted to perform; humble us on account of our manifold deficiencies and negligences; and may the blood of Christ daily appear to us more precious, and the grace of Thy Spirit daily be felt by us to be more necessary; and may our thanksgivings to Thee on account of both abound yet more and more, the longer we live.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, for ourselves. Hear us also for others; and from them and from us withhold, we entreat Thee, nothing that is truly good. And all that we ask is for the sake of Him, Who, with Thyself and the Holy Spirit, is worshipped, One God, world without end. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

We worship Thee, O Lord, as the First and the Last, Whose hand hath laid the foundation of the earth, and Whose right hand hath spanned the heavens. What, O Lord, are we in Thy presence; and wherewithal shall we render our persons and our services acceptable in Thy sight? Blessed be Thy name, that Thou hast shown us that which is good. We thank Thee for Jesus Christ, the Mediator between God and man: we rejoice in the efficacy of His sacrifice, the perfection of His righteousness, the prevalence of His intercession, and the power of His endless life. In Him we rejoice to behold all Thy perfections manifested, Thy law magnified, Thy character vindicated, Thy government upheld, Thy faithfulness proved, Thy hatred of sin and love of holiness ascertained and demonstrated; and all this we rejoice to contemplate in harmony with love to the sinner, and a purpose of mercy for the recovery of that which was lost.

O grant that, as the objects of transcendent and infinite love, we may resign ourselves to God, to be conformed to the design for which He loved us and sent His Son to be a propitiation for us. As the redeemed of the Lord, may we reckon ourselves to be not our own; as redeemed not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of the Lamb of God, may we look on ourselves as under obligations which we dare not neglect or resist; and as redeemed that we should live to the praises of

Him Who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, may the life we live in the flesh be spent in the fear, sustained by the faith, conformed to the will, in imitation of the example, and regulated with a view to the glory, of Him Whom we acknowledge to be our Master and our Redeemer, our Lord and our God.

For this purpose grant us the continual help of Thy holy and blessed Spirit. O may He dwell in our hearts; diffuse His hallowing influence through all our affections, motives, and desires; purify the fountains of our conduct; and conform us in soul, in body, and in spirit, to the whole will of God. And while we are under His sanctifying influence, forbid that we should ever grieve, or provoke, or quench Him. May He ever find us obedient to His motions, humbly dependent on His continued help and support, anxious to enjoy more liberal supplies of His grace, and willing to cultivate the means of stirring up the gifts He has already bestowed, and of obtaining others, adapted to the circumstances in which we are placed, the enemies with whom we have to contend, the duties we are called to perform, and the corrections and trials we are appointed to suffer.

In this manner, O Lord, may we feel and act this day. May the principles of true religion grow and flourish within us, and may our conduct give proof of the healthful and happy state of our souls before Thee. Nor be with us merely, but also with our friends: grant them Thy Holy Spirit; unite them to Thy Son; and lead them in the way everlasting.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, for them, for ourselves, and for all mankind; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we come before Thee at this time, sensible that of ourselves we cannot serve Thee as we ought. We lament the coldness and hardness of our hearts; the aversion we naturally feel for spiritual objects and spiritual exercises; the deadness of our minds to whatever concerns Thee; and the want of sincerity and devotion, which even in our best moments we are too apt to betray.

But we look up to Thee, gracious God, to correct the disorders which sin has introduced into our souls. Grant us, we entreat Thee, that grace without which our prayers will be but the language of the lips, and all our religious exercises but formality and deceit. May Thy Spirit be with us at this time, to help our infirmities, to animate our devotions, to quicken into activity our dormant affections, and to impart a heavenward direction to our thoughts and desires; so that our fellowship may truly be with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

And do Thou, O Lord, Who art acquainted with the state of our hearts, grant that Thy Spirit may be with us, not only while we are engaged in Thy service, but during our whole waking and sleeping hours.

May He be shed on us abundantly; and, according to the promise of the Saviour, may He abide with us for ever.

We acknowledge that in ourselves we are insufficient for the warfare before us: we feel and we lament our weakness and our depravity: we feel and we lament the difficulties and the dangers by which we are surrounded. But we rejoice that when we are weak then are we strong: we rejoice that in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength; and we give Thee thanks that we are permitted and encouraged to look away from ourselves, and to throw ourselves upon the resources of Him Who is able to do to us and for us far more exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

O grant that when we are in the world, and tempted to forget Thee, Thy Spirit may be at our right hand, awakening us to a sense of our danger, and exciting us to set Thee before us, as our constant Witness and our future Judge. When liable to be led away by prosperity, or when tempted to murmur under adversity, may Thy Spirit afford us such discoveries of the vanity of the world, and inspire us with such a prevailing sense of the value of spiritual and heavenly realities, as shall preserve us in a state of holy indifference to everything seen and temporal. When our corruptions are excited, may He set bounds to their violence. When our spiritual enemies threaten to come in as a flood, may He lift up a standard against them. O may the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus make us free from the law of sin and death; and may we be conquerors, and more than conquerors, through Him that loved us.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for what we have experienced of Thy goodness during the past day. If it be Thy will, may we sleep this night in safety and awake in comfort. And may a renewed sense of Thy goodness, and a renewed purpose of stedfastness in Thy service, be the fruit of every fresh proof of Thy fatherly care and kindness.

To Thee and to the protection of Thy power, and the riches of Thy grace, we commend all our relations and friends, and all whom we ought to remember in our addresses at Thy throne. Accommodate Thy grace to their necessities; and do Thou supply whatever is lacking in our prayers for them or for ourselves. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, both now and evermore. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

WHEREWITHAL, O Lord, shall we come before Thee, or bow down ourselves before Thee, the most high God? Thou art clothed with honour and with majesty, and before Thee all the creatures whom Thou hast made are less than nothing and vanity. But while penetrated with a sense of Thy greatness, we also look up to Thee and bless Thee as the God of all grace, in Whom compassions flow—the God Whose name and Whose nature are love, and Whose property is ever to have mercy and to forgive. In ourselves we behold nothing which is not calculated to fill us with shame

and with despair; but our confidence is not in ourselves; our dependence is not in anything we have done or can do; all our hope is in Him Who died for the ungodly, and whom Thou hast exalted at Thine own right hand, a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and the remission of sins.

Through Him we now present our persons and our supplications unto Thee; and, relying on the compassion of His character, the fidelity of His promises, and the merit of His death, we earnestly beseech Thee to take away all iniquity, to receive us graciously, to love us freely, and to dispose and enable us henceforward to render to Thee the affections of our hearts, and the obedience of our lives.

In looking back to the past, we lament to think how much of our time we have devoted to the world; how foolishly we have applied the powers and faculties Thou hast conferred upon us; how wickedly we have perverted Thy gifts, and abused Thy forbearance, and tried Thy patience; and how much cause we have afforded Thee to cast us away for ever from Thy presence. But while humbled under a sense of our sinfulness, we desire to remember that with the Lord our God there are mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him. We remember, and we rejoice to remember, that Thou hast said, 'I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own name's sake, and will not remember thy sins.'

O may the blood of Jesus, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot unto God, be applied to our consciences, and exert its sanctifying, com-

forting, and saving power upon our hearts. And having experienced the power of the Saviour's death, may we daily aspire to a more perfect conformity to the Saviour's life in our temper, in our feelings, and in our deportment—to rise with Him to newness of life, and to reach those things that are above, where He sitteth at the right hand of God.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for the mercies of the past night and of this morning. While entering on another day, we would renew our covenant with Thee, and humbly entreat Thee to accept of us, and to bless us, as Thine own. May a deep sense of our dependence and of our responsibility accompany us wherever we go, and influence us however we may be engaged this day. Let Thy blessing be upon us, and upon all whom we ought to remember before Thee; and may they and we be united in the enjoyment of Thy favour, and in the performance of Thy will. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory and dominion. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O Lord, out of the depths do we cry unto Thee. From that state of debasement and misery into which our sins have brought us, would we cause our voice to ascend unto Thee. Our sins testify against us, even to our own consciences; and wert Thou, O Lord, to set them in order before us, and to enter into judgment

with us on account of them, how should we be overwhelmed with the remembrance of duties omitted, mercies despised, knowledge abused, and opportunities neglected—how should we mourn and weep under a bitter consciousness of aggravated guilt, deep ingratitude, and inexcusable folly!

But we rejoice, gracious God, that Thy thoughts towards us are thoughts of mercy: we rejoice that judgment is Thy strange work, and that Thou delightest in mercy. O grant that the mercy of our God may soften our hard hearts, and bend our rebellious wills; may accomplish effects which in vain might have been expected from the terrors of Thy justice; may transform our enmity into affection, and our fear into confidence, and constrain us with our whole heart to love Thee, Who hast first loved us.

And while we rejoice in the forgiveness which is extended to sinners in Jesus Christ, enable us to fear to offend Him to Whom we owe so much. While we look at the debt of gratitude under which His forgiving mercy and redeeming love have laid us, may we be inspired with an ardent and even vehement desire to prove how deep, how intense, how pure, how elevated, how active, and how permanent, is our sense of such unmerited and incalculable obligation. In doing or enduring Thy good and holy will, may we be animated by the spirit of children, the confiding, affectionate, cheerful, and happy spirit which ought to characterize those who know Whose service they are performing, and by Whose dispensations they are tried.

Let us at no time presume on Thy goodness.

Let not our confidence in Thy mercy degenerate into unholy boldness, nor let the enjoyment of our privileges as Thy children make us careless of offending Thee. While relieved from the burden of that fear which hath torment, may we be brought effectually under the influence of that holy and filial fear, which shall prompt us to shun the very appearance of evil. And O may we prove by our language and by our actions, by our deportment in public and in private, by our conduct in the closet, in the sanctuary, in the family, and in the world, that the grace of God which bringeth salvation hath appeared unto us, teaching us, that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, and righteously, and godly, looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Nor would we confine our prayers to ourselves. We rejoice that with Thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption, and that all are invited and encouraged to hope in Thee. Let Thy mercy extend to the remotest boundaries of the habitable earth. Let it include within its range all whom sin hath made guilty, and miserable, and polluted, and depraved, and degraded. May it raise up the fallen and cheer the disconsolate; may it purify the defiled, enlighten the ignorant, direct the wandering, and save the lost. Let Israel be redeemed from all his iniquities; let Thine ancient people be brought back; let the Church of Christ, the true Israel of God, be as when the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. All that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus

Christ; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

We adore Thee, O Lord, our Heavenly Father, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Maker of all things. We come before Thee this morning, not only acknowledging Thee to be essentially glorious and perfect, but blessing Thee for all the goodness and mercy we have experienced during the whole course of our lives. Thou, O Lord, art our Creator, the Author of our being, the source of our comforts, and the object of our hopes.

Blessed be Thy name, that our sins have not induced Thee to cast us off. In justice Thou mightest have withdrawn all Thy gifts, resumed all the fruits of Thy liberality, dried up all the channels of our enjoyment, and left us to a bitter sense of the emptiness of the creature, forsaken by the God he has offended and provoked. But Thy ways are not as man's ways. Not only hast Thou forborne to visit us with the just consequences of our sins: Thou hast looked upon us in infinite and ineffable compassion, and sent Thy Son into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. Under a lively sense of personal helplessness and misery, may we raise our eyes to Him Who, even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, has been lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlast-

ing life. May we gratefully accept of salvation, on the terms on which Thou hast been graciously pleased to make an offer of it to us. As a free gift may we humbly receive it; as the gift of God through Jesus Christ, may we gladly welcome and thankfully appropriate it; and, though sensible that we are utterly unworthy of it, may we remember, and rejoice to remember, that it is to the unworthy it is offered, and for the unworthy intended; and that God is glorified, the Saviour honoured, and the purpose of the Gospel message fulfilled, when the sinner who is destitute of all things, applies to the Saviour to save him to the uttermost, and to be to him henceforth his wisdom, his righteousness, his sanctification, and his redemption.

Nor let our faith and hope ever be moved from this good foundation. Assured that while sin hath deprived us of all personal righteousness, and emptied us of all personal sufficiency, it hath pleased the Father that all the blessings of which we are personally destitute, should reside in the Saviour, may we daily be applying to Him, that we may be accepted through His worthiness, enriched by His fulness, comforted by His presence, and carried forward in the way to Zion, by the continual supply of His good and promised Spirit. O let not our progress tempt us to forget the misery and helplessness of our beginning. While we are alive unto God, may we remember that it is by Jesus Christ; and if we are accepted, may we remember that it is only in the Beloved. At every step of our progress may we re-

member that we are sinners. To the last may we feel that we have nothing of our own. As saved by grace, may we be clothed with humility; and, as branches grafted into the true vine, may we daily afford evidence of our experimental conviction of the truth, that all our fruitfulness is owing to our connection with the Saviour; and that as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can we except we abide in Him.

Thus, O Lord, enable us and all our friends, and all whom we ought to remember before Thee, to live from day to day. Thus may men everywhere be taught by Thy Spirit to live; and thus may Thy kingdom come, and men everywhere be blessed in Christ, till all nations call Him blessed.

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be His glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O Lord, we worship Thee as the high and lofty One Who inhabiteth eternity, Whose name is holy. Help us now to draw near to Thee with reverence and with confidence, under a deep sense at once of Thy greatness and of Thy goodness. Unite our hearts, that we may fear Thy name; collect our scattered thoughts; restrain our wandering imaginations; elevate and fix our wayward and grovelling

affections; and grant that we may present to Thee an offering worthy of Thine acceptance, even the sacrifice of a broken and a contrite, of a believing and an obedient heart, which Thou wilt not despise.

Cast us not away from Thy presence, O Lord; neither take Thy Holy Spirit from us. Though our sins are great, and manifold, and highly aggravated; though we have offended against Thy holy laws, and defaced our original resemblance to Thy pure and blessed image; though we have done the things which we ought not to have done, and have left undone the things which we ought to have done, and have naturally no spiritual health in us—yet do Thou, most merciful Father, have mercy upon us, and send forth Thy Holy Spirit to quicken, to renew, and to sanctify us; to form us again after Thine image; to write Thy law upon our hearts, and to put Thy fear in our inward parts; and to restore us, in disposition and in character, to the place in Thy family which we have lost by the Fall.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for the discoveries Thou hast made of Thyself in Jesus Christ our Lord. May all the benefits of that salvation, which hath been procured for us by the sufferings and death of Thy dear Son, be made ours; and for this purpose may Thy Spirit be given us, to render effectual the means of saving knowledge and improvement we enjoy.

Especially, we pray that our hearts may be divinely opened to the reception of the truth, in all its simplicity and power; that our understandings may apprehend it, and our affections take an interest in it; and that

our feelings, desires, and conduct, may be subjected to the influence and governed by the authority of the Gospel of Christ. God grant that we may be living epistles of Christ, seen and read of all men; and that, wherever we are, men may take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus. Under the transforming power of Thy Word and Spirit, may we all, in our respective spheres and relations, exhibit the same mind in us that was also in Christ Jesus; and walk, in the view of the Church and of the world, as He also walked.

To Thy gracious care we commend ourselves during the future period of our lives. We thank Thee for all the goodness and mercy we have experienced hitherto; and now, in looking forward to the future, we would take encouragement from the past, and commit our way unto the Lord, assured that He will direct our steps. Be with us, we pray Thee, during this night: be with us while we sleep, and when we awake. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life; and may our dwelling be in the house of the Lord for ever.

With ourselves, we would be mindful in Thy presence of all our brethren of mankind. We commend to Thy fatherly goodness the poor and the destitute, the afflicted and the dying. We pray that all our friends may be objects of Thy friendship; that Thy people throughout the world may be blessed and multiplied; that our native land may enjoy Thy favour and protection; and that every kindred, and nation, and people, and tongue, may speedily hear the joyful sound,

and be enriched with the blessings of Thy salvation. All that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

GIVE ear to our words, O Lord; consider our meditation. Hearken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee we will pray. We rejoice that we are permitted to come before Thee in the multitude of Thy mercy: O may we also worship in Thy fear. Destroy the illusion by which we set Thee at a distance from us, and, because Thou art unseen, think of Thee as if Thou wert not. Show us the visible traces Thou hast left of Thy glory upon all the works which Thou hast made—the features of Thine image on our minds, the print of Thy perfections upon the objects of nature, the lively signatures of Thy wisdom and goodness upon the course and order of providence, the bright and manifest evidence that Thou art not far from any of us, in that Thou art daily doing us good, giving us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Above all, grant that we may see Thee in Thy Word; and that the discovery Thou hast made of Thyself in the Gospel of Thy grace, may sink deep into our hearts, and destroy the enmity which is the real and fatal cause of all our practical departures from Thee. Beholding Thee in the face of Jesus Christ, may we

be drawn to Thee as our Father, and feel towards Thee as Thy children. Henceforward, instead of contemplating Thee with an averted and reluctant mind, may we rejoice to recognise Thee in everything, and to think of Thee as everywhere. Not only *now*, but when we leave Thy throne and engage in our customary occupations for the day, may we bear about with us a prevailing sense of Thy presence; and may all we do be done as under Thine eye, and with a view to Thine approbation.

As we advance in our Christian journey, may our thoughts turn more habitually towards Thee as our ever-present Protector and Guide. In fellowship with Thee, may we lose sight of the comparative emptiness of earthly blessings, and the necessary imperfection attendant on the cultivation of the best earthly feelings. In Thee may we find realized all that our hearts have sought in vain to find in the creature; and satisfied from full and ever-growing experience, that Thou art the unfathomed boundless ocean of all bliss, the true centre of the creature's breathings after happiness, may we rejoice to lose ourselves in Thee, and to stretch forward in delighted anticipation to the time when we shall behold Thy face in righteousness, and be satisfied when we awake with Thy likeness.

Thus, O Lord, would we feel and act this day. And O do Thou, Who knowest the frailty of our best purposes, assist the weakness of our nature, and enable us by Thy grace to carry our intentions into execution, and to set Thee, the Lord, continually before us.

Nor would we lift up our souls for ourselves alone.

Increase the number of those that fear Thee, and that call upon Thy name. Let our friends and our connections, and all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence, be numbered among the righteous, whom Thou wilt bless, and whom Thou wilt compass with favour as with a shield. Let Thy name be everywhere hallowed; let Thy kingdom come; and let Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven! And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord, we desire this evening to come before Thee under a lively sense of Thy goodness and mercy. Blessed be God, Who daily loadeth us with His benefits; Who in the morning waketh us to taste and see that He is good; Who in the course of the day restoreth our souls, and spreadeth a table for us in the wilderness; and Who, when the shadows of the evening fall around us, extendeth over us, and over those who are dear to us, the shield of His protecting and gracious providence.

While thus, O Lord, we thank Thee for Thy goodness, we would also unite in contrite acknowledgments of our unworthiness and ill-desert. We are not worthy of all the goodness and truth Thou hast shown us: we are not worthy even of the least of Thy mercies. Hadst Thou withheld them, we could not have complained of injustice: and now, wert Thou in anger to

withdraw them, we could not charge Thee with causeless severity; for we, O Lord, have often misapplied Thy benefits, and have always failed suitably to acknowledge Thee in them.

But we bless Thee, gracious God, that while to us belong shame and confusion of face, to Thee belong mercies and forgivenesses. For the sake of Thy Son, Whom Thou hast given to be our Saviour, pardon freely all our sins; justify our persons, and accept us as righteous in Thy sight. Clothe us also with the graces of Thy Holy Spirit. Fill our understandings with light; our hearts with love; our whole souls with an ardent and predominating principle of subjection to Thine authority, and zeal for Thy glory.

In our intercourse with those with whom Thou hast connected us by so many different ties, may we make it our habitual and anxious study to exemplify the wisdom of the serpent in conjunction with the harmlessness of the dove; to transfuse into our deportment much of the holy and benignant spirit of the Master we serve; and by pureness and knowledge, by long-suffering and kindness, by the Holy Ghost and love unfeigned, by the word of truth and by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report, to approve ourselves the genuine and devoted children of the living God.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, we commit ourselves during the future period of our lives. In all our trials and perplexities, be Thou our Comforter and Guide. When we are ready to go astray, do Thou make the

path of duty plain before us, and keep us in it. When we are sinking under the burden of affliction, do Thou sustain and comfort us. In the hour of temptation, make Thy grace sufficient for us. In all our conflicts with our spiritual adversaries, plead our cause with them that strive with us, fight against them that fight against us, and stand up for our help and deliverance.

Nor would we be unmindful in Thy presence of our brethren of mankind. Look in compassion upon all who are in affliction; hear their cry; relieve their wants; and sanctify to them the chastening dispensations of Thine all-wise and merciful providence. Enlarge, we pray Thee, the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom; bring into it men of every kindred, and every condition: may they especially who are our connexions and friends belong to it; and may the ties of nature and affection be drawn closer by the bond of a common alliance with one God and Father, of Whom are all things and we in Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things and we by Him.

Be with us, we beseech Thee, through this night. Refreshed by sleep, and thankfully alive to Thy goodness, may we awake to bless Thee for another day of the Son of Man, and be disposed to enter on its peculiar engagements and business, in the spirit of those who esteem the Sabbath of the Lord holy and honourable.

These our prayers we now present to Thee in the name and pleading the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all glory and honour, both now and for ever. Amen.

# Sixth Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts. Our soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; our heart and our flesh crieth out for the living God. With joy would we hail the return of Thy holy day; and with desire, and expectation, and gratitude, we would enter on its duties, and avail ourselves of its privileges. On this day, may we remember that the Saviour died, and revived, and rose again; died for our offences, rose again for our justification, and ascended up into heaven to re-assume His glory, and to be the Lord both of the living and of the dead. O with Him may we die unto sin, die to its curse, die to its power. As He rose from the grave, so may we also through Him rise to newness of life. And as He ascended up on high, leaving the world behind Him, and entering into the unveiled presence of His Father, so may we this day rise above all created things, and by faith hold communion with Him where He sitteth at the right hand of God. Remembering that all power in heaven and in earth is given into His hands, may we renew the homage that is due to Him as the exalted Head of the Church; and, remembering His promise to be with His people even to the end of the world, may we realize His presence

in His ordinances, and look up to Him, with expectation and confidence, to fulfil His gracious assurance in our experience, by making us joyful in Thy house of prayer.

We thank Thee, gracious God, not only for the institution of the Sabbath, but for public worship, and all the other means of grace which we are specially permitted on this day to enjoy. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; and blessed also are they whose strength is in Thee! May we find that Thine ordinances are as wells of water and as springs in the desert: may they refresh our fainting and thirsty souls; and, satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy place, may we experience that the joy of the Lord is our strength, and be prepared in days to come to go from strength to strength, and to make unwonted progress in the way to Zion.

To Thy merciful regard and gracious help we commend all who shall this day worship with us, and especially Thy servants who shall conduct the devotions, and minister to the instruction, of Thy Church and people throughout the world. Accompany, we pray Thee, the preaching of Thy Word everywhere with an abundant and effectual blessing. Excite attention, dispel prejudice. Let Thy Word be listened to, not as the word of man, but as the word of God, and be felt by the heart and conscience to be quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

Now unto Him That hath loved us, and hath washed

us from our sins in His own blood; unto God, even the Father; and unto the Spirit of all grace, One God, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

O THOU, to Whom we owe our Sabbaths and all our means of spiritual improvement, we give Thee thanks for the mercies and privileges we have this day enjoyed. We thank Thee that our ears have heard the glad tidings of salvation; and that, unlike numbers of our fellow-men, we enjoy the blessedness of the people who know the joyful sound. If, to Thine all-seeing eye, any of us have come before Thee this day in an unqualified frame of mind, O forgive the sin, and pardon the sinner. If, in the heart of any of us, any root of bitterness should still remain, which springing up has this day troubled us, O do Thou extirpate it; show it to us, direct our attention to it, and dispose and enable us by Thy grace, earnestly, perseveringly, and successfully to strive to eradicate it. Come over the mountains of our provocations, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and though we are not worthy of the least of the benefits we entreat from Thy hand, yet for Thy Son's sake, and for Thy great mercy's sake in Him, vouchsafe to us the sanctified use of the privileges of this day, and let the gracious effect of them on our heart, our temper, and our deportment, be apparent many days hence.

By means of the lessons of Thy Word, may we be

directed in the ordinary business of life. May we take Thy testimonies to be our heritage for ever, and find them to be the rejoicing of our heart. Under all the trials and disappointments to which we may be exposed, may we find unfailing comfort and support in the promises which Thou hast made to sinners in Jesus Christ. May those promises be as light to our eyes, and as food to our mouths—sweeter than honey, and more to be desired than gold. And in the prospect of the end of all things which is at hand, may the hope, the good hope, of life and immortality, as brought to light by the Gospel, sustain and cheer us. Amidst the fears and the failing of the heart and the flesh, may it minister strength to the heart; and, even in the presence of the last enemy, may it fill our mouths with songs of deliverance.

With ourselves, we would be mindful in Thy presence of all our relations and friends, of all our acquaintance and neighbours, of all our brethren in Jesus Christ, and all our brethren of mankind. Extend Thy merciful regard to the whole circle embraced by our affections and prayers. Let Thy Word have free course and be glorified. May it run as the messenger of good tidings to the most distant lands, and dispense the blessings of salvation to Jew and Gentile, to high and low, to young and old, to barbarian, Scythian, bond and free, that everywhere Christ may become all in all. In our own land, may its principles be more openly avowed, more powerfully felt, and more generally diffused. May our Queen largely experience its influence: may its power ex-

tend to all judges, rulers, and magistrates: under its shadow may the institutions of our country flourish; and by it may we daily be exalted as a nation that feareth the Lord.

We beseech Thee to bless in an especial manner Thy people with whom we have this day worshipped. May their hearts and ours be knit together in love, and established with grace. And may Thy servants who have spoken unto us the Word of God be encouraged in their labours, and be blessed by beholding a richer harvest follow from their exertions and their prayers.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

We desire, O Lord, to come before Thee this morning in the multitude of Thy mercies. We are wholly Thine; Thine by every tie; Thine as the creatures of Thy power, the pensioners on Thy bounty, and the subjects of Thy government. We bless Thee that when we had destroyed ourselves, Thou didst lay help for us on One Who is mighty; and instead of casting us off as unprofitable and worthless, didst devise and

carry into effect the means by which we might at once be restored to Thy favour and be qualified for Thy service. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! And blessed be the only begotten Son of the Father, Who, in the fulness of time, came in the name of the Lord to save us!

May the love Thou hast shown us deeply affect our minds. Filled with gratitude to the God Who hath pitied and redeemed us, may we reckon ourselves to be wholly Thine; and grieved that sin should ever have had the dominion over us, may we anxiously devote the remainder of our days to the service of Him Whose we are, and Whom we now desire above all things to obey.

O forbid, Lord, that these sentiments and resolutions should affect us only for a moment. Forbid that other trains of thought should take possession of our minds, and that engaging in the business or sharing the intercourse of the world should wear out those impressions which we now entreat Thee by Thy Holy Spirit to render indelible. Let Thy Holy Spirit write deep upon our hearts the memory of Thy great goodness, and under His sacred guidance may we be led into all truth, directed and strengthened in the discharge of our duty, kept from the evils which are in this world, and finally made meet for the glories and the happiness of the life to come. Instead of falling back, may we be led forward; and though we are in the midst of temptations and dangers, may we be enabled to maintain the profession of our faith without wavering, and to go from

strength to strength, until each of us arrives perfect in Zion.

In an especial manner, we commend ourselves this day to Thy protection and grace. Thou hast preserved us during another night; be with us during the whole course of the day; and graciously grant that, sustained by Thy providence and sanctified by Thy Spirit, we may think, and speak, and act, with a view to Thy glory, and the advancement of the best interests of our fellow-men.

We commend to Thee all our relations and friends, and all whom it is in any way our duty to remember before Thee. Enlarge the affections of our hearts, we beseech Thee; and grant that, from the love of Christ to ourselves, we may be taught to embrace in love all our brethren of mankind. We rejoice that Thou hast spoken good concerning all the nations that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Lord, hasten that good, we beseech Thee, in Thine own time; and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God.

We beseech Thee, gracious God, to hear us, to accept of us, and to answer us; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, from Whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, we give Thee thanks that we are permitted to approach Thy throne, and

to ask from Thee those blessings of which we stand in need. Enable us, we pray Thee, to approach Thy throne under the influence of godly fear, and in the exercise of humble and affectionate faith. Pour out upon us the spirit of grace and of supplications; grant us a deep and an affecting sense of our wants and of our sinfulness; humble us under a conviction that in ourselves there dwelleth no good thing; and dispose us to cast ourselves upon Thy compassion and promises in Jesus Christ, for all those supplies which in Him Thou hast freely offered to the acceptance of all.

And do Thou, gracious God, be pleased to look down upon us in mercy, and to open Thy hand wide to supply all our need. May our sins, which are many and highly aggravated, be blotted out. May just views be given us of the evil of sin itself; and sensible of its demerit and exceeding hatefulness, may we lie low at the cross, and despair of safety but through the atoning death and the all-perfect righteousness of the Lamb of God, Who gave Himself for us, a sacrifice and offering of a sweet-smelling savour unto God. Trusting in Him Who died the just for the unjust, may we partake of the peace and the joy, as well as the safety, which accompany believing. May the fears and the anxieties, the doubts and the suspicions, of a guilty conscience be removed. Assured that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, and satisfied of our warrant to wash in this fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, may we daily draw nigh to our almighty and compassionate Redeemer, believing that He will receive us graciously, and love

us freely, and keep that with which we entrust Him—that He will perfect all His work upon us, and fulfil all His promises to us, and never fail us nor forsake us, but in due time present us before His Father and the holy angels, as redeemed unto God by His blood.

And may we not only be justified freely, but sanctified wholly. May the Spirit of Christ be poured out upon us abundantly, not only as the Comforter, but as the Sanctifier; opening our eyes to the rule of duty, as well as to the foundation of hope; and disposing us not only to look to Christ for deliverance from the wrath to come, but to apply to Him to renew us by His grace in the spirit of our minds, and to make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for all the mercies of the past day. Be with us, we beseech Thee, during the silence and the slumbers of the night. Grant that our friends and relatives, and all who are dear to us, may share in Thy regard. May they partake not only of the kindness of Thy providence, but of the riches of Thy grace; and after they have done and suffered the will of God, may they, together with ourselves, be admitted into Thy kingdom, to see Thy face, and share in Thy love, for ever and ever.

And now, O Lord, let Thy kingdom come: let Thy name be hallowed: and let Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven! And blessed be Thy glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with Thy glory, through Jesus Christ! Amen and Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, Thou art the Creator and the Sovereign of the universe; the God of our life, and the length of our days; the Former of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits. On Thee we continually depend; and to Thee we are indebted, not only for existence, but for all the comforts, the privileges, and the hopes, which render existence a blessing.

When we look back on the course of Thy providence, we have reason to call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and to magnify Thy holy name. We adore Thee for the liberality that hath supplied our wants; for the compassion that hath sustained our weakness; for the patience that hath borne with our perverseness; for the more than paternal kindness that hath arranged the circumstances of our lot, and watched over our welfare. From the dawn of our being to the present moment, Thou hast never deserted us. In those years when we were wholly unconscious of Thy care, Thou didst care for us. In those circumstances when vain was all the help of man, Thou hast been present with us to support us by Thine arm, and to defend us by Thy shield. At those seasons when we might justly have been left to ourselves; when, trusting to our own wisdom, we had involved ourselves in perplexities, or, presuming on our own strength, we had exposed ourselves to danger; when our way was hedged up, and we seemed left to suffer the consequences of our own rashness and folly, Thou hast interposed for our deliverance, and preserved our souls

from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling.

But especially, O Lord, we bless Thee for the love Thou hast shown us in Christ Jesus. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He hath loved us, and given His Son to be a propitiation for us. We magnify a mercy which exceeds our highest thoughts; which hath descended into the lowest abyss to meet the depth of our misery, and which hath risen above the clouds, and reached unto the highest heavens, to bring down from thence upon us the blessings of eternal life. O that love like this were felt by us to be more than we can resist! Remembering what we have deserved, and what God hath done for us, may all the coldness and alienation of our hearts give way before a love which passeth knowledge, and may we learn to love Him Who gave Himself for us, with all our souls and hearts, our strength and mind—supremely, devotedly, universally, and for ever.

For this purpose, pour out upon us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may renounce whatever Thy law forbids, and may follow after and exemplify whatever it enjoins. May sin be our aversion, and holiness our study and delight; and, imbibing daily more of the mind that was in Christ Jesus, may we maintain a habitual and growing ascendancy over the world, the flesh, and the devil; and demonstrate to the satisfaction of our own consciences, as well as to the conviction of all who know us, that we have passed from death unto life, and have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost given unto us.

Thou, O Lord, may we thus day feel and walk. And may all our crosses harmonize with us in the grace of Thy spirit, and be the light of Thy countenance. And all this we ask in our Christ's name, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

GIVE ear, O Shepherd of Israel: Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock: Thou that dwellest between the Cherubim, shine forth. We desire, O Lord, to look back, and in reviewing all the way by which Thou hast led us, we would bear a grateful testimony to the compassion and kindness that have marked all the dispensations of Thy providence in our behalf. Thou hast led us forth as a shepherd his flock, and made us to lie down in green pastures, and beside the still waters. Though like sheep we have all gone astray, and turned every one of us into his own way, Thou hast not cast us off; Thou hast not left us to stumble and to perish on the dark mountains: in infinite compassion Thou hast looked upon us in our wanderings, and sent Thy Son as the good Shepherd, not to condemn and destroy, but to seek and to save.

Blessed be Thy name, gracious God, for the good Shepherd Who laid down His life for the sheep. O may we hearken to the voice of the good Shepherd, and find from experience that He restoreth our souls. Amidst the storms of the wilderness, and the snares and the dangers that cross our way, may His hand

guide us, and His right hand uphold us; and by the effectual supply of His promised grace, may He afford us reason continually to say, 'He leadeth us in the paths of righteousness for His own name's sake.'

O Lord, we would be mindful of the trials and difficulties that await us in our progress through life. But we also look up with confidence to Him Who is our refuge from the storm, our covert from the tempest, and our shadow from the heat. On the strength of His arm, and the fidelity of His promises, we would repose with undoubting confidence; and looking forward even to the last and most trying scene of our earthly pilgrimage, we would commit ourselves into His hands, and say, 'Yea, when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for Thou art with us; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort us.'

O Lord, Thou knowest all our weakness and all our wants: Thou art acquainted with the peculiarity and difficulty of our circumstances: Thou knowest the number, the power, and the malice of our enemies. Lead us, we beseech Thee, in a plain path because of our enemies: guide us with Thine eye set upon us: provide for us suitable refreshment as we advance: let our head be anointed with oil: let a table be prepared for us; and let our cup run over. Of the blessings of this life grant us what to Thee may seem best; but whatever be the measure of our temporal enjoyments, let the Lord Himself be the portion of our inheritance and our cup, and let Him maintain our lot. Let a sense of His favour infuse its sweetness into

every mercy, and lessen the bitterness of every trial. With our growing years and obligations, may our comforts and resources increase; and when goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, may we dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Trusting in Thy future care, and blessing Thee for Thy past goodness, we now commit our bodies and our spirits to Thy mercy this night and for ever. Watch over us; be at our right hand that we may not be moved; let us enjoy the sleep which Thou givest to Thy beloved; and be Thou our portion and our God for evermore. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake; to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou art great and greatly to be feared. With sentiments of deep humility and lively gratitude, we would this morning draw nigh to Thy throne. We are less than nothing in Thy sight, and very vanity. We cannot profit Thee by our services; nor can we find anything in ourselves worthy of Thy regard, or calculated to avert that sentence which our sins deserve. Yet we approach Thee, O Lord, trusting in Thy mercy. We rejoice, that though we are undeserving in ourselves, we have a great High Priest over the house of God, through Whom we may come boldly to Thy throne. In Him, O Lord, we desire ever to be found; and through Him we desire now

to come unto Thee. We have destroyed ourselves, but in Him is our help. We rejoice that He died for our offences, and was raised again for our justification; that He ascended up on high, and now sitteth at the right hand of God; that all power is committed into His hands; that He administers the affairs of the world in subserviency to the glory of His Father, and the accomplishment of His promises to the Church; that He ever liveth to make intercession for His people, and is always ready, as He is able, to give them all things needful to their holiness and happiness. We rejoice that as He is now exalted at Thy right hand, a Prince and a Saviour, the hour is at hand when His glory shall be revealed; and He Who came once to bear the sins of many, shall appear again the second time without sin unto salvation.

May we, O Lord, not merely know these things concerning the Saviour, but believe in them as the true sayings of God, and rejoice in them as good tidings of great joy. May we count it a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; and great and manifold as our sins may be, may we nevertheless acknowledge the virtue of the Saviour's blood, by applying to Him that He may sprinkle it upon us, and thereby wash us from our sin, and cleanse us from our iniquity. Recognising Him as the King of Zion, the exalted Head of the Church, the Fountain in which it hath pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell, may we daily come to Him, that out of His fulness we may receive even grace for grace. And looking forward to the

hour, when all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, may we now be giving all diligence to make our calling and election sure, that when His glory shall be revealed, we also may be glad with exceeding joy.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for all Thy goodness to us during the past period of our lives. May our friends, and all whom we should remember in Thy presence, partake of Thy favour and blessing. May Thy cause and people prosper. Let wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times, and the fear of the Lord our treasure; and let the period be hastened when the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard among all nations, and when the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God. Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and accept of us and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art God in heaven above and upon the earth beneath, and there is none else. We bless Thee for the discoveries which Thou hast been pleased to make of Thy character, and for the encouragement Thou hast given us to approach Thy throne. Grant us the spirit of genuine worship: grant us the clean hands and the pure heart of them that seek Thy face, even of them who shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

We acknowledge, gracious God, our unworthiness of Thy mercies; but we bless Thee for Jesus Christ, Who died for our offences. In Him we desire to be found; and for His sake we entreat Thee to forgive us all our sins, to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness, to relieve us from the burden of our many spiritual necessities, and to qualify us by Thy grace for service or for suffering, according to the will of God.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for the blessings of the past day. We thank Thee for every temporal expression of Thy kindness to ourselves and to those in whose welfare we are interested. May the blessings of Thy providence create in us more ardent desires after the blessings of Thy grace. May they be sanctified as excitements to gratitude and motives to duty; and, instead of being accepted as a portion, may they raise our minds to Thyself, Who alone art the portion and the happiness of Thy creatures.

To Thy goodness we commend ourselves during this night, and during the future period of our lives. Thou alone knowest the way by which we are to be led: but we rejoice to commit our way unto Thee; and amidst the darkness that invests our prospects, we recognise the goodness and mercy of the past as pledges for the future. We are not worthy of Thy care: but Thou hast cared for us; and, leaning on the arm that hath hitherto sustained us, we would go on our way rejoicing. Let Thy grace ever be sufficient for us. In the multitude of our thoughts within us, let Thy comforts delight our souls; and when we say, 'Our foot slippeth,' let Thy mercy hold us up.

Nor do we pray for ourselves alone. May grace, and mercy, and peace be multiplied unto all whom we should bear on our minds at Thy throne. Guard the young from the dangers to which they are exposed. Employ in Thy service the strength of those who have attained mature age; and while the heart of the aged faints and fails, be Thou the strength of their heart, and their portion for ever.

Pour out Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, upon all ranks and conditions of men. May the principles of the Gospel of Christ gain ground in the world: may the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; and may the reign of righteousness commence and flourish. O Lord, we bless Thee for Thy predictions and promises concerning Thy Church in the latter days. With confidence and expectation we look forward to their accomplishment in Thy good time. Hasten that time, we beseech Thee, and employ Thy people in bringing it to pass; and unto Thee in Jesus Christ, shall be all the glory, world without end. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O Thou Who art of purer eyes than to look upon sin, we humble ourselves before Thee on account of our manifold iniquities and provocations. With shame we remember how often we have turned a deaf ear to the reproofs of Thy providence, to the warnings of conscience, and to the entreaties and promises of Thy Word. What can we say, O Lord, in excuse for our

guilt? What can we say in explanation of feelings and conduct which, if manifested towards an earthly benefactor, would be pronounced the most aggravated ingratitude; and which, if displayed in reference to the ordinary concerns of this life, would be characterized as madness and folly? Our iniquities testify against us. Our own hearts condemn us: our conscience, our understanding, our reason, our own sense of what is right and becoming, bear witness to our infatuation and guilt. We have sinned, O Lord, and what shall we say unto Thee, O Thou Preserver of men?

We will cast ourselves upon Thy mercy. We will look with the eye of faith toward Thy holy temple: we will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High; and while our sins rise up before us like everlasting barriers, through which no cry of mercy can ascend to Thy throne, and no ray of favour can penetrate from Thee to us, we will rejoice and be glad in the thought that Thy mercy is in the heavens, and that Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds,—that Thou comest over mountains of provocations, and that as the heavens are above the earth, so are Thy ways above our ways, and Thy thoughts above our thoughts.

We rejoice, O Lord, that by the gift of Thy Son, Thou hast made it manifest that Thou art indeed infinite in mercy. Confiding in Thy Son, we now cast ourselves upon Thy mercy. In Him we behold a Saviour able and willing to save to the uttermost; and accepting of the offers made to us of Him in the

Gospel, we commit to Him our souls to be sprinkled with His blood, and sanctified by His Spirit—to be redeemed from destruction, and made meet for glory.

O may our souls be united to Him really, vitally, and indissolubly. May the Spirit of Christ dwell in us richly, effectually, and for ever. Our weakness is great, our corruptions are strong, and our enemies are many; but let Him strengthen us with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering, with joyfulness. Amidst the difficulties of our way, may His presence cheer and His grace sustain us; and when at length our appointed course is finished, may He receive us unto Himself, and perfect our blessedness by being with us for ever.

To Thy mercy we commend ourselves this day. May past mercies induce us to serve Thee, and encourage us to confide in Thee. Let all our friends share in Thy bounty and grace; and let all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence, be remembered by Thee with that blessing which maketh rich, and with which Thou addest no sorrow.

We leave Thy throne in Thy strength, making mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be everlasting glory. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, with Whom is the preparation of the heart and the answer of the mouth, enable us to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. From the dust in which our meanness and unworthiness make it fit that we should lie, we presume to lift up our eye with faith and hope, and to bless Thee as the God Who, in Jesus Christ, hath made Himself known to us as full of compassion and of great kindness.

While sensible of the infinite distance which exists between us and Thee, we would not despair of Thy mercy. Though poor and dependent by nature, and infinitely unworthy by transgression, may we never forget that Thou retainest not anger for ever. While the voice of conscience threatens, may the good news of grace reigning through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ, silence every accusation, and still every fear; and, persuaded that He Who died for our offences, and rose again for our justification, is mighty to save, may we cast away the burden that oppresses us, and exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Grant, O Lord, that being released from the bondage of fear, and being made partakers of the glorious liberty of the children of God, we may walk before Thee with a perfect heart. May a sense of deep and unmerited obligation to the Divine mercy, constrain us, as with the power of a new nature, to a life of holy obedience. Instead of calculating how little we may

do without ceasing to be Thy servants, may we be prompted by a holy ambition to carry religion into the business of life, and to make obedience to Thy will commensurate with the whole tenor and duration of our being.

And O do Thou, Who art the Parent of all holy purposes and righteous conduct, help us by Thy Spirit at once to resolve and to do whatever is well-pleasing in Thy sight. Leave us not, we beseech Thee, to ourselves. Wherever we are, may we bear in mind our own weakness and proneness to fall into sin. Sensible that we have no strength of our own, may we lean on the arm which hath upheld the Church in all its temptations and dangers; and while preserved from false security by remembering the number, the power, and the craft of our enemies, may we be preserved from yielding to unworthy and tormenting fears, by considering that greater is He that is with us than all that can be against us.

Thus, O Lord, carry us forward in our Christian course. At every stage of our journey, provide for us suitable and seasonable refreshment. Let Thy Spirit be continually with our spirits; and at length, when our appointed race is run and our warfare is accomplished, receive us unto Thyself, and be our God, as Thou hast been our guide, for ever and ever.

Now, O Lord, believing in Thy promises, and relying on Thee for the accomplishment of them, we commit our bodies and our spirits, and all who are dear to us, into Thy merciful hands this night. Hear us when we call upon Thee, O God of our righteous-

ness; have mercy upon us, and hear our prayer. Now unto Him Who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

O Lord, in approaching Thy throne this morning, we would unite with those blessed spirits who stand around Thy throne, in giving glory, and honour, and thanks to Thee, Who livest for ever and ever. We adore and bless Thee, not only as the Creator of all things, but as our bountiful Benefactor. Thou hast bestowed upon us not only a living soul, capable of consciousness and enjoyment, but a rational and immortal nature, calculated to derive its happiness from the contemplation of Thee in Thy works, from communion with Thee in Thine ordinances, and from being with Thee in Thy kingdom.

And we bless Thee, that though sin hath marred the original excellence of our nature, and cast us down from the honours of our first estate, Thou hast followed us into the depths to which our iniquities have sunk us, and by the exceeding riches of Thy grace, in Thy kindness towards us through Christ Jesus, hast infinitely surpassed all the liberality of Thy primitive gifts. We bless God, who is rich in mercy, for the great love wherewith He loved us;

Who, even when we were dead in sin, hath quickened us together with Christ, and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

While we call to mind our obligations to redeeming mercy, and praise Thee for all that Thy love hath done for us, we entreat Thee to teach us what we shall do in testimony of our gratitude, and in return for Thy benefits. Our goodness extendeth not unto Thee, yet we bless Thee that Thou art pleased to acknowledge and to accept the humble and defective services of Thy redeemed servants. Make us to understand the way of Thy commandments. Open our minds to a perception of our duty; remove the prejudices of our hearts against it; make us willing to be led into all truth, and into the practice of all holiness; lead Thou us, O Lord, Thyself, by Thy Spirit, in Thy good and holy way; and suffer us not, we entreat Thee, to be seduced from it by the allurements of sin, or by the weakness and irresolution of our own corrupt nature.

May we be made acquainted with our duty, not only in its general outline, but in its minutest details, and in its amplest extent. Teach us to love Thee, the Lord our God, supremely, universally, disinterestedly, and constantly. Make all our duty sweet to us, by disposing us to identify it with Thy service, by causing us to hear Thy voice enjoining it, and by permitting us to experience Thy presence and grace in our endeavours to perform it.

Nor, in our zeal for Thy glory, let us ever be un-

mindful of our duty to our neighbour. May we remember that Thou hast placed love to our neighbour as only second in order to love to Thyself; and while the throne of our hearts is surrendered to Thee, may the affections which find their centre in Thee, extend their influence through the whole sphere of our connection with society, and include within their range all whom Thou hast united to us by the various ties of kindred or of friendship, of grace, of neighbourhood, of country, or of a common nature.

Be pleased, O Lord, we entreat Thee, to instruct and assist us this day in the discharge of our various and respective duties. May each of us be thankful for Thy mercies, zealous in Thy service, kind to one another, and anxious to approve ourselves unto Thee. May we advance in the way to heaven, and may this be a day upon which we shall have no cause to look back with regret, when that great day arrives which shall terminate the affairs of time, and try the value of every man's work. All that we ask is for Christ's sake; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O Lord, we adore and bless Thee as the God of grace and of consolation; in Whom we not only live and move and have our being, but by Whom we have been called to the enjoyment of all heavenly and spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. O grant that we

may feel our obligations, not only to creating goodness, and providential care and bounty, but to redeeming love and sanctifying grace. May the design for which the Saviour died be accomplished in our experience and manifested in our conduct. May our temper and our feelings, our desires and our pursuits, be cast into the mould of His example, and exhibit a resemblance to that holy and perfect pattern which He hath left for our imitation. Looking up to Him for encouragement in all our attempts to serve Thee; for direction in the path of duty; for support under the burden of affliction; for new supplies of grace to meet every new exigency in our condition; committing ourselves habitually to Him Who careth for us, and relying on the power of His arm and the faithfulness of His promises; may we go up through this wilderness in which we are called to perform our pilgrimage to heaven, and feel, as we advance, our strength renewed and our courage heightened, until we attain the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. O grant that such may be our confidence in the Lord our Shepherd, and such our experience of the power of His rod and of His staff to guide and to support us, that we may have reason, when called to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, to say, 'We will fear no evil,' and when heart and flesh fail us, to exult in Thee, as the strength of our heart and our portion for ever.

For all Thy goodness to us during the past day, we would now render to Thee our grateful and humble acknowledgments. With deep-felt penitence

we call to mind the many instances in which we have failed in our duty, and transgressed Thy holy laws. With shame and confusion of face, we acknowledge that while Thou hast been dealing with us as with children, we have too often been unmindful of the hand that fed us, and too often provoked Thee by our follies and our disobedience. Let Thy goodness, nevertheless, be exercised towards us. Let Thy mercy towards us be very great; and let it extend not only to the pardon of our past offences, but to the communication of grace, that in time to come we may glorify Thee in the enjoyment of all Thy gifts, and in the purposes to which we apply all our powers.

To Thy compassion and kindness we commend ourselves during this night. Let our sleep refresh our bodies; and let a sense of Thy goodness in bestowing it excite us to devote our waking hours more unreservedly to Thy service.

With ourselves, we would be mindful in Thy presence of all our friends, and of all whom it is our duty in any way to remember at Thy throne. Let Thy grace be accommodated to their various circumstances and necessities. Enlarge, we pray Thee, the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. Add daily, both at home and in foreign and distant lands, to the number of His subjects, and hasten the time when all the ends of the world shall turn unto the Lord, and all kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and accept

of us, and bless us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU Who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; Who wast, and art, and art to come, the Almighty; we bow down ourselves before Thee in humility and reverence. This morning we desire, with a thankful sense of Thy past goodness, to commend our bodies and our spirits to Thy merciful protection. Keep alive upon our minds a recollection of the comparative vanity and the uncertain tenure of all earthly blessings. While we receive the good things of providence with thankfulness, and rejoice in them as Thy gifts, let us not set our hearts upon them. May we consider them as valuable only in their connection with Thy favour. With temperance and moderation may we use them; and when it is Thy will to withdraw them, may we remember that they were but lent us; humbly and submissively may we resign them, thankful that they never constituted our portion, and that the true sources of our felicity in Thee lie far beyond the reach of accident and change.

Elevate our minds, O Lord, we beseech Thee, far above a present evil world. Weaken the hold which temporal things take of our affections. Let us daily become less affected by earthly changes; less liable

to be the prey of earthly anxieties; less disposed to say of earthly blessings, however valuable and endeared, 'Ye are our gods;' and less prone, when visited by earthly losses and disappointments, to indulge in deep and overpowering sorrow, as if our all had been taken from us, and we knew not where to turn for comfort. O, while in the world, may we never lose sight of that eternal world which lies so near us. May its glories eclipse in our eyes all the empty splendours of a scene which is soon to vanish away. May our chief solicitude be to prepare for a state that is unending and unchangeable; and in comparison of this, which is the great object of existence, may everything else that bears a relation merely to this present world, sink into insignificance and contempt.

Nor, in the contemplation of our future prospects, let us be seduced into forgetfulness of present duty. Let not the hope of heaven make us indifferent to the claims of duty on earth; nor spirituality and heavenly-mindedness assume the character of insensibility or indolence. While fervent in spirit, may we also be active in business; and while as strangers and pilgrims we pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, may we also learn to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be kindly affectioned one toward another, in brotherly love preferring one another, to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and to weep with them that weep.

O Lord, Thou alone canst guide us; Thou alone canst lead us in the way everlasting; Thou alone canst preserve us from the extremes into which we

are ever liable to fall. Guide us, we beseech Thee, with Thy counsel; make us to understand the way of Thy precepts; remove from us the way of lying; and incline our hearts to perform Thy statutes always, even unto the end.

Thus, O Lord, we entreat Thee to lead us this day. Be our God, and the God of all our friends, and of all whom we should remember in Thy presence. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, for Whom we bless Thee, and Who is all our hope; and to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

UNTO Thee, O Lord, Who art a refuge for the oppressed, and a very present help in time of trouble, we this evening draw nigh, laden with the burden of our sinfulness and wants, but encouraged by Thine own assurances and promises, to cast our burden upon Thee, that Thou mayest sustain it. We bless Thee for all Thy past goodness; we thank Thee that we have been preserved during another day and another week. Continue Thy goodness, we beseech Thee, towards us. During the silence and solitude of this night, and even when we are unconscious of Thy care, let Thy grace be exerted on our minds. May we have reason, when we awake, to say, 'We will bless the Lord, Who hath given us counsel, Who hath proved and instructed us in the night season.'

With minds awake to the design of Thy holy day, may we arise in the morning, and enter on the duties of the Sabbath. And during the whole course of the day, and while engaged in its various exercises, may we be conscious of the presence and grace of Him Who is the life of ordinances, and the Lord of the Sabbath; and Who hath promised to satisfy the longing soul, and to fill the hungry soul with goodness.

Nor would we pray for ourselves alone. Be very gracious to all who are in any way connected with us. Have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon the young and the inexperienced. While their heart is yet tender, stretch forth Thy hand and save them from the dangers to which they are exposed, opening their eyes, and turning them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified, by faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Instruct the ignorant. May they who are feeling after Thee if haply they may find Thee, be assisted in their search after the good way in which they shall find rest to their souls. To the consolations of Thy grace we commend the afflicted and distressed in mind, body, or outward estate. May their afflictions lead them away from broken reeds and empty cisterns, to God, the glory of their strength, and the lifter up of their head: may they, even in their darkest hours, feel that they are in the hands of a wise and a compassionate Heavenly Father; and though no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but rather grievous, nevertheless afterward let it work the peace-

able fruit of righteousness to them that are exercised thereby.

Be with Thy genuine people everywhere. Break not the bruised reed; quench not the smoking flax. Increase the comfort and the holiness of Thy people. In all their tabernacles may there be the voice of joy and health; and on every dwelling-place of Mount Zion, and on all her assemblies, may the Lord create a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; and upon all the glory let there be a defence.

O do Thou Who art the God of all the families that dwell upon the face of the earth, look in compassion upon those dark places which are still the habitations of cruelty. Send out of Zion the rod of Thy strength. Lift up Thy voice in power, and say to the north, 'Give up;' and to the south, 'Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.'

And while thus Thou hastenest the glory of the latter day, increase the interest and zeal of Thy people in the accomplishment of Thy promises to Thy Church. For Zion's sake let them not hold their peace; and for Jerusalem's sake, let them not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

These our prayers we present before Thee. Hear us in heaven Thy holy habitation; and when Thou hearest, forgive, and answer, and accept of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Mediator; to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

# Seventh Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O THOU God of the Sabbath, we desire, on this the morning of Thine own day, to unite together in humbly adoring Thy greatness, acknowledging Thy goodness, and supplicating Thy mercy. This is the day when the Saviour rose from the dead. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto us this day to know the exceeding greatness of the power which wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. May our minds attain to clear, enlarged, and satisfying views of the person, character, and work of Christ: with a firmer faith than we have hitherto exercised, may we apprehend the value of His sacrifice, the perfection of His righteousness, and the merit of His death. O may the fears of guilt,—the doubts and suspicions of a heart originally at enmity with God, and still labouring under the consciousness of much remaining hostility to His will,—be this day subdued. May we honour a risen Saviour, by relying on His power to save, by placing all our burdens at His feet, by applying to Him as our Prince and Saviour, to bestow on us the gifts which are accumulated in His fulness, and which He is seated upon the throne of His glory to confer.

Blessed God, we would look forward to a brighter

than the present day. We rejoice in the hope of an endless and heavenly Sabbath. Blessed are the men, Thy servants, which stand in Thy courts, and hear Thy voice! Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, they will be still praising Thee! O may this day be to us a foretaste and a pledge of the elevated and enduring felicity of heaven! May its services be sanctified as a preparation for the perfect love, the unspeakable rapture, and the endless thanksgiving and praise of that world, where Thou art seen without a vail, where Thy servants serve Thee, and where the Lamb is the light thereof. Lead us, O Thou Shepherd of Israel, while we are in this wilderness, to those green pastures, to those still waters, which shall bring before our minds the glories of the New Jerusalem,—the clear fountains of the water of life proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb,—the good land where they that are before the throne hunger no more, neither thirst any more, but where the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne leads them and feeds them, and where God wipes away all tears from their eyes.

In all the exercises of Thy worship may we enjoy Thy presence and aid. Accompany the preaching of the Gospel with power from on high. Enlarge the hearts of its ministers with affectionate zeal for the honour of the Saviour, and the salvation of their brethren of mankind. Especially sustain and comfort Thy servants whom Thou hast sent to the heathen. Let not their sky be brass, nor the field of their labours iron; but bless them in the city, and bless them in the field; bless them in the work of their hands, and bless

them in the increase of their toil. May the Lord command His blessing upon them in all that they set their hands unto, and in all the lands whither He hath carried them.

And now, O Lord, we commend ourselves to Thee, and to the word of Thy grace; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Who art the giver of every good and perfect gift; we this evening unite in thanking Thee for another day of the Son of Man, and for the renewed opportunity which we have thereby enjoyed of waiting upon Thee in Thy house of prayer. We thank Thee for any capacity which we have this day felt for the spiritual exercises of the closet and the sanctuary. Thou art the author of all the good that is in the heart of man; and if we have been enabled this day to enter into the design of the Sabbath,—to rest from worldly thoughts as well as worldly employments,—to realize Thy presence in Thy house, and to hold fellowship with Thee in Thine ordinances,—it is because Thou, Lord, hast restrained Satan, and healed the fountain of corruption in our souls, and given us of Thy Spirit, and made us what we are. O make us truly thankful for every symptom of Thy good work within us. Enable us to hold fast the things which Thy gracious hand hath wrought; to be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, lest they be ready to die; to

be dissatisfied with present attainments, and to go on unto perfection, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those that are before, pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Add, we beseech Thee, stability to our faith, expansion to our hope, fervour to our charity, vigour consistency and energy to our Christian character. May the holy bias of our will keep pace with our increase of knowledge; and may our power to resist temptation be always equal to the difficulty of our circumstances, and the extent of our duties. May we grow in grace, while we grow in knowledge; and add every outward social and public virtue to the principle of faith which we cherish in our hearts.

We lament, O Lord, before Thee, the poverty of our attainments, the slowness of our progress, the languor and deadness of our spiritual frame, notwithstanding our many and precious advantages. O forgive the hardness and impenitence that still cleave to us. Forgive the listlessness of our attention, the lukewarmness of our affections, the lifelessness of our devotions. Forgive our want of personal application, and of serious practical impression, in hearing Thy Word; and our faint recollection of its most important truths and necessary lessons. Lay not these our sins to our charge; but blot them out of the book of Thy remembrance, and send Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may be rescued from their power, as well as saved from their consequences.

Extend, we pray Thee, to others the blessings

which we have sought for ourselves. Encompass our native land with the shield of Thy protecting providence. Reign in the heart of our Queen: direct her counsels, and prosper her endeavours for the welfare of the nation. Bless all ranks of men; and diffuse throughout society the spirit of pure and undefiled religion. Let the wickedness of the wicked come everywhere to an end; and let the time be hastened when, according to Thy promise, Thou wilt extend peace to Zion like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream,—when Thou wilt create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. Hear us, O Lord, we entreat Thee, and accept of us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, the Author of our being and of all our enjoyments, in Whose hand our breath is, and Whose are all our ways, we desire with grateful hearts to give Thee thanks for Thy merciful care of us during the past night, and for the light and blessings of this morning.

In entering on the business of this day, we would take encouragement from Thy past goodness to entrust Thee with the care of all our concerns, and to commit our way wholly to Thy direction. As the beloved of the Lord, may we dwell in safety; and may we not only experience Thy guardian care in our going out and in our coming in, but may we be

enabled to set Thee continually before us, and to enjoy the comfortable persuasion, that because Thou art at our right hand we shall not be moved.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the opportunity we yesterday enjoyed of acquiring a more perfect acquaintance with Thy will, and of forming a clearer conception of Thy gracious character. We thank Thee for any addition to our religious knowledge, and for any fresh impulse to our religious character, which may have attended or followed the exercises of Thy worship. Forgive, we beseech Thee, the defective views, the languid emotions, the transient impressions, by which our devotional services may have been characterized. Root out of our hearts that spirit of practical unbelief, by which the effect of Divine truth is so often counteracted, and the force and value of its saving lessons are so often lost upon us. O Lord, our Sabbaths, which are our highest privileges and our best mercies, would, but for Thy grace, leave no trace upon our minds, and present nothing but matter of accusation against us in Thy great day. But Thou art slow to anger, and of great mercy; and, therefore, while we confess and bewail the sins of our holy things, we pray Thee not only to pardon our deficiencies and provocations, but to grant us Thy Holy Spirit; that He may recall to our memories the truths which we have heard, and engraft them in our hearts as principles of feeling and of conduct, to the lasting comfort and profit of our souls. May we and all Thy people whose privilege it has been to hear Thy blessed Word,

and to join together in the services of the sanctuary, bear with us into the world a lively sense of the reality and unspeakable importance of eternal things. May the temper of the Sabbath accompany us into the engagements of ordinary life; and in the presence of our fellow-men, may we walk so as that the name of God and His doctrine be honoured and not blasphemed.

Help us and all Thy people to be useful to one another, and to society at large. Having been taught the knowledge of Thy will, may we be inspired with a generous desire to become the benefactors of our perishing brethren, by imparting, as we have opportunity, the benefit we have ourselves received. And may Thy blessing attend the exertions which we and Thy people may be enabled to make; so that whether we seek to promote the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom by our prayers, our contributions, our words of encouragement, or by the simple light of a holy example, we may have the comfort of perceiving that Thou art with us, and that Thy cause is prospering. Hear us, and accept of us, for all that we ask is for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Whose we are, and Whom it is our highest privilege to serve, enable us this evening to draw near to Thee with true hearts, and to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Teach us the value of Thy friendship; and while Thou invitest us to hold

[illegible] with Thee, prepare our minds for meditat- [illegible] Thy glorious perfections, for realizing Thy [illegible] and precious promises, and for reposing in Thee [illegible] affectionate faith as our God and the God of [illegible] salvation.

We are all by nature estranged from Thee; but be pleased, O Lord, to reconcile us by the blood of Thy Son. Show us our natural guilt and danger, our emptiness and misery. Show us Thy method of recovery and reconciliation. O do Thou Who didst lay upon Thy Son the burden of our iniquity, and didst in Him provide an all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, reveal Him to us in all His power and willingness to save. Draw us to Him by the constraining energy of Thy Holy Spirit; and draw us to Thyself in Him, that, having found the fountain of living waters, we may no longer seek to quench our thirst at distant streams, and broken and empty cisterns.

If any among us be yet blind and afar off, remove the vail from that darkened heart; disturb the sinful security of that impenitent soul. Rouse the immortal mind, O Lord, to inquire what shall it be profited, if it should gain the whole world and lose its own capacity of happiness for ever. O may the affecting tokens by which we are everywhere surrounded, of the unsubstantial nature and the fleeting duration of the best of earthly blessings, be sanctified as the means of raising our affections to a heavenly treasure, an incorruptible inheritance which fadeth not away.

And if any among us be alive to the value of

spiritual blessings, but burdened with doubts as to his title to accept and appropriate them, open that mind, we beseech Thee, to a clear perception of the gracious character of the salvation of the Gospel. Let that mind hear with joyful conviction, the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come;' let him hear till he himself be able to say, 'Come;' as athirst let him come, and let him take of the water of life freely.

O let not the folly of childhood, the thoughtlessness of youth, the cares of busy manhood, or the burden and languor of increasing years, deaden the mind to the things that belong to its everlasting peace. May the fears of a guilty conscience, may the perplexities of a doubting mind, may a sense of helpless corruption unable to withstand the tide of outward temptation, may the prospect of death, and the griefs and disappointments of life, be all sanctified as the means of weaning the heart from the world, and of leading it to its rest in God.

Be Thou, O Lord, Thyself the guide of the blind, the light of them that are in darkness, the instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes. Be Thou the stay of the helpless, the shield of the tempted, the comforter of them that are cast down and sorrowful. Let each experience the fulness as well as the freeness of Thy salvation; and find Thee to be a God, willing, as Thou art able, to do for the soul far more exceeding abundantly above all that it can ask or think.

With our desires fixed on Thee, we would now close this day, and resign ourselves to the slumbers of the night. Be our shield to defend, as Thou hast this day

fellowship with Thee, prepare our minds for meditating on Thy glorious perfections, for realizing Thy great and precious promises, and for reposing in Thee with affectionate faith as our God and the God of our salvation.

We are all by nature estranged from Thee; but be pleased, O Lord, to reconcile us by the blood of Thy Son. Show us our natural guilt and danger, our emptiness and misery. Show us Thy method of recovery and reconciliation. O do Thou Who didst lay upon Thy Son the burden of our iniquity, and didst in Him provide an all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, reveal Him to us in all His power and willingness to save. Draw us to Him by the constraining energy of Thy Holy Spirit; and draw us to Thyself in Him, that, having found the fountain of living waters, we may no longer seek to quench our thirst at distant streams, and broken and empty cisterns.

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spiritual blessings, but burdened with doubts as to his title to accept and appropriate them, open that mind, we beseech Thee, to a clear perception of the gracious character of the salvation of the Gospel. Let that mind hear with joyful conviction, the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come;' let him hear till he himself be able to say, 'Come;' as athirst let him come, and let him take of the water of life freely.

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With our desires fixed on Thee, we would now close this day, and resign ourselves to the slumbers of the night. Be our shield to defend, as Thou hast this day

been our sun to enlighten us. And all that we ask is for Jesus Christ's sake, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

We worship Thee, O Lord, as the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God. Thy throne is established in the heavens, and Thy kingdom ruleth over all. Without Thy permission, not a sparrow falleth to the ground, and even the very hairs of our head are all numbered.

We adore that power which extends to the remotest bounds of the universe, which embraces in its control the course of nature, the events of Providence, the actions of men, and the joys of the blest and the sufferings of the lost inhabitants of the invisible world. We adore that power which subdues all things to its purposes; which the wisdom of the wise cannot penetrate, which the strength of the mighty cannot resist, which poureth contempt upon princes, and is terrible to the kings of the earth. We adore that power which is regulated by infinite goodness, and administered by unerring wisdom. We rejoice that the affairs of the universe are conducted by a hand which brings good out of evil; which accomplishes its plans by means that seem to us hopeless; and which provides, in the issue of all events, a revenue of glory to God, and a theme of everlasting thanksgiving to all the family of the redeemed, and all the hosts of heaven.

Especially, O Lord, we adore and magnify that power which has been so often displayed in caring for us; which has saved us from so many dangers, and conferred upon us so many blessings; which has watched over us in infancy, led us by the hand in youth, guided us through the perils of inexperience, upheld us amidst the pressure of temptation, guarded us from the infection of disease, and oftentimes redeemed our lives from the power of the grave. We bless the power which has ordered all our lot; which is our light by day, our watch by night; that spreads a table for us in the wilderness, and opens fountains to us in the desert; that restrains the malice of enemies, and gives us a place in the affections of kindred and friends; that daily disappoints our fears, exceeds our expectations, infuses sweetness into our comforts, and converts our trials into blessings; which hath done so many and such great things for us, that were we to reckon them, we should find them as the waters of the great deep, and as the sand by the sea-shore.

Above all, we bless, we praise the power that hath reached us, even in our low estate; that hath pitied us when we were enemies, and saved us when we were lost. We bless the hand which might have been stretched out to destroy, but which hath been strong to save.

And now, O our God, to Whom appertaineth the power, be Thine also the glory, of our deliverance from all those evils which we justly deserve, and of our restoration to those unspeakable privileges of which our Saviour's blood alone is the purchase. Send out

of Zion the rod of Thy great power, and in the hand of Thy Spirit let it be mighty to the pulling down of Satan's strongholds in our souls. Constrain us by the gentle yet all-powerful influence of the cross of Christ, to cast from us every weapon, and every ensign of rebellion, and to yield ourselves to Thee as Thy willing people and redeemed servants for ever.

Hear us, O Lord; and these great mercies which we ask for ourselves, be pleased likewise to vouchsafe to all whom, in our prayers, it becomes us to bear on our minds; that Thy glory may be advanced in the holiness and happiness of members daily added to Thy family, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art high above all nations, and Thy glory is above the heavens. Encouraged by Thy goodness, we approach Thy throne. We rejoice that, while we depend on Thy power for protection, and on Thy bounty for relief, we have strong consolation in the hope set before us in the Gospel, and in those great and precious promises which Thou hast confirmed by an oath.

Thou art infinitely glorious in Thyself: from eternity Thou wast ineffably blessed in the fulness of Thine own perfections; yet Thou wast pleased to give us being, and to connect the display of Thy glory with our conformity to Thine image. When we had sinned

and come short of Thy glory, Thou wast still the ever-blessed and the all-perfect Jehovah, and mightest have magnified Thy name by blotting us out of being, or by setting us forth as an example of Thy righteous displeasure at sin.

But blessed be the Lord, Who daily loadeth us with His benefits, even the God of our salvation, unto Whom belong the issues from death. Thou, Who didst give us being, hast been pleased to continue the gift; yea, where sin hath abounded, grace hath much more abounded. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift! For this Thy love which passeth knowledge, we will be glad and rejoice before Thee; yea, we will sing praises unto Thy name.

And while we ascribe power and excellency unto God, we would remember and rejoice that it is He Who hath done such great things for us, Who giveth strength and power unto His people, and Who encourages us to look to Him for all those blessings which form the heritage of His servants. Bless us, we beseech Thee, even every one of us, with a saving interest in these blessings. Thou, God, hast commanded Thy strength; strengthen us to escape from the bondage of our natural corruption; and if Thou hast already stretched forth Thy hand and broken our chain, strengthen, we entreat Thee, that which Thou hast already wrought. Speak peace to our consciences, by enabling us to exercise a firmer and a simpler faith in the blood of atonement. Infuse into our souls a more commanding and constraining sense of Thy authority and love, by uniting us more closely to the fountain of

spiritual life. Provide for our stedfastness in temptation and for our growth in grace, by keeping open the sacred channel of Divine communications and supplies, and by replenishing our souls from day to day with the enriching dew of Thy blessing. O may He Who hath ascended up on high, look down upon us continually with Divine compassion from the throne of His glory; may He impart to us from time to time, according to our need, the gifts which He hath received for men; may He enlarge our capacities for receiving them; and having quickened our desires, and prompted our petitions, may He open the windows of heaven, and pour out His blessing upon us, till there be no more room to receive it.

Nor do we pray for ourselves alone. Let Thy mercy extend to our friends and kindred, our benefactors and neighbours, and all our brethren of mankind. Dwell in our native land. May our country not only enjoy Thy favour, but be employed, in Thy providence, as the medium of good to surrounding nations. May the waters of the sanctuary overflow from it to other lands, and carry with them healing and a blessing, whithersoever Thou makest them to turn.

We commend ourselves this night to Thy protection and care. And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us and with all for whom we ought to pray, both now and for ever. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer, Who hast given us being, continued us in it, and called us to the hope of a better and glorious life through Jesus Christ; we would this morning render unto Thee our humble and grateful thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness. We thank Thee for permitting us at this time to assemble in Thy presence, and to make known our wants, and present our supplications, at Thy throne. Thou art the Hearer of prayer; and Thou hast promised to give to them that ask, to be found of them that seek, and to open to them that knock.

Encouraged by Thy promises, we, Thine unworthy servants, would now present to Thee the desires of our hearts. We know not the things which we should ask; but we beseech Thee to remove our ignorance, and to correct our mistakes; and, though from inadvertence we may neglect many things which we need, or, from misconception, may beg many things which it may not be for our profit to receive, yet let Thy gracious wisdom be in all things the interpreter of our petitions; and let the answers to our prayers be according to the multitude of Thy mercies, and not according to our dark and misjudging will.

Bestow upon us that amount of temporal good which Thou seest to be best for our souls. Give us day by day our daily bread; and work in us an entire satisfaction with the ordinations of Thine all-wise and

beneficent providence. May we be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, may we make known our wants unto Thee, casting all our care upon Thee, Who carest for us. May we not repine when blessings are withheld, nor suffer our minds to become giddy and elated when our comforts abound. In whatsoever state we are, may we therewith be content, knowing both how to be abased and how to abound—how to be full, and how to be hungry—both how to abound and how to suffer need.

And for this purpose, let the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Interest our hearts in a treasure superior to the world; and may we cease to love the things which perish in the using, by having our affections set on the things which are at Thy right hand, where our Saviour sitteth. Whatsoever things are true; whatsoever things are honest; whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure; whatsoever things are lovely; whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, may we think on these things.

Thus, O Lord, exalt and sanctify our desires. With Thee for our chief good, teach us to look down on meaner interests with sanctified indifference. May we feel that we have all things and abound, when we are possessed of a pledge that our God shall supply all our need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

With ourselves, O Lord, we commend to Thy care

all our brethren of mankind, especially our friends and relations, and all who are united to us by the bond of Christian faith, and hope, and love. Add daily to the number of Thy people. Unite to Thy family all whom we love; and expand our affections more and more, that when we pray, 'Thy kingdom come,' our petitions may include all whom Thou hast made of one blood with ourselves, to dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Now unto God, even our Father, be glory for ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. We rejoice, that though Thou art in heaven, and we are upon the earth, distance is no hindrance to the ascent of our supplications. Thine ear is not heavy, that it cannot hear: Thy hand is not shortened, that it cannot save. Iniquities, we confess, prevail against us; but even these, though like the great mountains, are surpassed by Thy mercy, for Thou hast said that Thou wilt take them away.

Blessed, O Lord, is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee. May each one now in Thy presence participate in this privilege. Through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, may we all have access with confidence, by Thy Spirit, into Thy presence. And for this purpose, send, we entreat Thee, Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts. May He draw us to Thyself, by uniting us to Thy Son. May He

awaken us to the shame and misery, the guilt, pollution, and danger, of our condition as sinners. May He expose to us the vanity of self-righteousness, the folly of self-security, the madness of indifference and delay in the prospect of eternity. As guilty, needy, perishing sinners, may He lead us to the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world, and teach us to count all things but loss, that we may win Him, and be found in Him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but the righteousness which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

In the cross of Christ, O Lord, Thou hast revealed Thy glory. By terrible things in righteousness, Thou hast vindicated Thy character and government; yet blessed be Thy name, by terrible things in righteousness Thou hast reconciled the world unto Thyself, and invited the confidence of all the ends of the earth. O God of our salvation, we bow before Thy righteousness in the remission of sins; with holy awe we adore Thy justice, while we hope in Thy mercy.

As the God of our salvation, manifest Thyself, we beseech Thee, for our deliverance, protection, and support. In the midst of our enemies and dangers, we look up to Thee Who art girded with power, to still the noise of our fears, and the tumult of our adversaries. While they that are far from Thee are afraid of Thy tokens, O may we recognise in Thy watchful providence the unfailing pledge of our safety. May common events remind us of our Father's power; may common mercies reach us as expressions

of our Father's love. While Thou makest the outgoings of every morning and every evening to rejoice, may we learn to look above visible instruments, and to trace Thy hand in all the channels of our enjoyments. May we regard all things as ordered by Thy providence, and directed with a view to wise and gracious ends. And when it is at any time Thy will to lessen our comforts, or to cast a cloud upon our prospects, may we still retain the remembrance of Thy paternal care, and bless Thy name for Thy mercy in chastening, as well as for Thy bounty in bestowing.

Under a sense of our manifold obligations, we would now retire to rest this night. As the beloved of the Lord, may we dwell in safety; and may we and all our friends be the objects of Thy care, not only during this night, but during all the nights and days of our appointed time, till we attain the glory of the life to come, through the merits and intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, both now and for ever. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou art exceeding great; but we bless Thee that Thou art full of pity and ready to forgive; and we come unto Thee, not to celebrate Thy praises, as if we could exalt Thee,—not to plead our worthiness, as if we had any claim on Thy justice,—not to

press our necessities, as if our importunity entitled us to Thy mercy. We come unto Thee, because Thou hast commanded and encouraged us to come, because Thy mercy in Christ Jesus is greater than our guilt and misery as sinners, because He died Who is our advocate with the Father, and because Thou hast promised that whoso cometh unto Thee through Him, Thou wilt in nowise cast out. For His sake receive us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; cast the covering of Thy forgiveness over our manifold and aggravated transgressions; relieve our spiritual poverty; heal the diseases with which sin has destroyed the health of our souls; restore to us a life-giving sense of Thy favour; bestow on us a conscious capacity for Thy service; and whatever blessings our extreme and complicated necessities may require, be pleased, O Lord, to grant, according to the greatness of Thine own mercy, and through the worthiness of Thine own Son.

We lament in Thy presence our ignorance; do Thou remove it. We are slow of heart to apply and to practise what we know. But do Thou expel prejudice from our minds; subdue the frowardness of our wills; create within us genuine love for the truths of Thy Word; and dispose and enable us to act upon our convictions of duty, without regard to the wishes of the flesh, or the opinion and example of an evil world.

In our intercourse with society, and in the hour of temptation, we are ready to lose sight of our most sacred obligations, and to violate our most solemn

vows. But O do Thou, Who art ever near us, even when we are most ready to forget Thee, penetrate our minds with an awful sense of Thy perpetual presence, and of the enormity of sin committed under Thine eye; inspire us with a salutary fear of Thy just displeasure and fatherly chastisement; and overpower the inclination to sin by a vivid sense of the love of God in Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify us unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

And forasmuch, O Lord, as we walk in the midst of evil, and carry about with us a body of corruption and death,—forasmuch as we wrestle not against flesh and blood alone, but against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world,—clothe us, we beseech Thee, with the armour of Thy most blessed Word, that in Thy name we may encounter, and in Thy strength overcome, all Thine and our enemies. Strengthen us with all might by Thy Spirit in the inner man, that we may neither be taken by surprise, nor be tempted in the hour of trial to distrust our spiritual weapons, and own ourselves conquered. Let Thy grace be at all times sufficient for us; and give us cause continually to ascribe thanks unto God, Who always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

These our prayers we present unto Thee, O Lord. Let Thy mercy be upon us and upon all our friends this day, and for evermore; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art the Governor among the nations, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. We rejoice that the sceptre of the universe is in the hands of infinite wisdom, and that the resources of almighty power are directed by unbounded goodness and covenant love.

Enable us, who are the subjects of Thy government, to confide in Thy providence and care. As nothing can happen without Thy permission, teach us to submit to all Thine appointments, and humbly to adore what we cannot comprehend. We know not the way that we should choose; but we lift our souls to Thee; and in the wisdom and love of a Heavenly Father, we recognise a pledge that what is good the Lord will ordain for His people, and that what they know not now, they shall be permitted with gratitude and praise to know hereafter.

Many evils are to the righteous; but amidst the perplexities of the present, and the uncertainties of the future, we would repose under the shadow of Thy faithfulness; and free our minds from vexing cares, by entrusting our treasure where it cannot but be safe, and by placing our hearts where our treasure is. In the midst of a world unstable as water, where wave succeeds wave, where we stand in the midst of wrecks, and where death, the last enemy, closes in our prospects, O may we be enabled to raise our views to that unclouded world of which Thou Thyself art the light,

and to cast the anchor of our hopes within the vail, whither Christ, the Forerunner, hath for us entered.

And that our confidence may not be vain, dispose and enable each of us seriously to examine the foundation upon which he is resting. Without faith it is impossible to please Thee; and without faith in Thy Son no man can come unto Thee. Lead us then, O Lord, to Him in Whom Thou art to be found. Lead us to Him as little children, that we may sit at His feet; that we may receive the law from His lips; that we may learn of Him as our unerring teacher and most perfect pattern. Lead us to Him as guilty and perishing sinners, that we may lay down our burdens at His cross; that in His sufferings and death we may behold the propitiation for our sins; and that we may draw from His resurrection and ascension to Thine own right hand, the assured hope of a glorious life with Him in the heavenly world, where He now liveth to make intercession for us. Lead us to Him as our exalted Head, our Prince and Saviour, the Captain of our Salvation, the King of Zion; that we may no longer feel degraded as the slaves of Satan; that we may no longer yield ourselves the helpless captives of sin; that we may no longer sink under the dread of our enemies, or submit to the usurped authority of them that hate us; but that we may assert the rights and privileges of the Lord's freemen and purchased possession, exult in the joyful consciousness that sin shall not have dominion over us, and walk at liberty in the assured persuasion, that as He Who is for us is mightier than all they that can

be against us, so in His name, and through His strength, we shall be conquerors, and more than conquerors.

Thus in Him Who is the head of all principality and power may we be complete. And clothed in His righteousness, strong in His strength,—no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of faith,—may we commit all our interests into Thy hands, and leave to a Heavenly Father's care the disposal and management of all our lot.

Be with us, we beseech Thee, during this night. Be with our kindred and our friends, wherever they are. Be with Thy people in all their habitations. And let great grace be upon them, and upon us continually, through Jesus Christ; to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, One God, be all honour and glory. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

In approaching Thy throne this morning, help us, O Lord, to remember that Thou art a Spirit, and that they that worship Thee must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Teach us with earnestness to ask from Thee the heartfelt sincerity, the truth in the inward parts, which lies at the foundation of all genuine worship. And persuaded not only of Thy being and providence, but of Thy special presence with Thy people when they unite in Thy worship, may we now

feel that the place whereon we stand is holy ground, and put far from us all foolish imaginations, all worldly thoughts, all mean and trivial recollections, and consecrate our minds exclusively to Thee and to Thy service.

We come to Thee, O Lord, through Thy Son, Who is the only way to the Father. We feel the separation which sin has produced between our souls and Thee; and we acknowledge that we have no hope of acceptance in Thy sight, but through Him Who hath broken down the middle wall of partition, and reconciled us unto God by His cross, having slain the enmity thereby.

Blessed be God for this new and living way unto the Father, which hath been thus wonderfully and graciously consecrated for us. With a deep sense of our own demerit, we would now lay our hand upon the sacrifice which Thy mercy has provided and Thy justice accepted, and confess over it all our guilt. For the sake of Christ Jesus Thy Son; for the sake of His humiliation, sufferings, and death; for the sake of all that He did and endured on earth, whereby Thy character hath been vindicated, and Thy law magnified; for the sake of that all-prevailing intercession which He continually presents at Thy right hand; for the sake of the sweet savour of His sacrifice and the perpetual incense of His supplications; for *His* sake Who humbled Himself for us, and Whom Thou hast exalted, that He might in due time exalt us,—save us, O Lord our God, and gather not our soul with sinners; deliver and remember us, for Thy

covenant's sake; and let it repent Thee according to the multitude of Thy mercies, that we may give thanks unto Thy holy name for ever, and may triumph in Thy praise.

And as a token for good, and in testimony of Thy favour, be pleased, O Lord, to strengthen and fit us for all the duties of this day, in our several stations and relations. Enable us in every situation to think, and speak, and act as Christians. Whatever be our occupation, whatever our company, may we adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and out of a good conversation show forth our works with meekness and wisdom. Fit us, we entreat Thee, O Lord, for these things, and for whatsoever else may be incumbent on us, for the good of others, the safety, happiness, and improvement of our own souls, and the honour of Thy holy name.

And we further commend to Thy merciful regard all whom we ought to remember in our prayers. Vouchsafe to them, according to their circumstances, all the good that our affections can desire, and that Thy providence may deem right for them to receive. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. With gratitude we remember Thy covenant with Thy chosen, that when He should

make His soul an offering for sin, He should see His seed, He should prolong His days, and that the pleasure of the Lord should prosper in His hand. We look back with triumph to the time, when the heathen raged and the people imagined a vain thing, and when Thou didst appear in Thy glory, to disappoint their plans, and to compel them unconsciously to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel had determined before to be done. Blessed be God that the day-spring from on high hath visited us, in spite of the hour and power of darkness. Blessed be God that the purpose of mercy received its accomplishment by means of the very hands that were raised to defeat it; and that out of the grave of the Saviour, where the hopes of Thy people seemed for ever buried, there hath arisen that power which is destined to put down all other rule, and authority, and power, till, at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

To this name, which is above every name, we, O Lord, would humbly bow. We rejoice that the government is upon the shoulders of the Prince of Peace, and that He must reign till all His enemies be made His footstool. With reverence we own His right to reign in us, and to rule over us. O may He Who hath gone into heaven, and sat down for ever at the right hand of the Majesty on high, accept the homage which our souls would now render Him. May He prompt that homage. May He establish in our minds the calm and peaceful dominion of His Holy Spirit, stretching forth the sceptre of His sovereign

control over the throng of our warring passions, affections, and appetites; casting down within us every imagination and every high thought that exalteth itself against His righteous authority; expelling every intruder, and guarding us against the inroads of every foe. May He inspire us with all those sentiments of lively reverence, affectionate confidence, and loyal subjection, which are due to Him Who liveth and was dead, and behold He is alive for evermore, and hath the keys of hell and of death. May we honour Him as the Lamb in the midst of the throne; love Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us; trust Him Who hath all power in heaven and in earth at His command; and serve Him Who hath bought us with a price, and made us kings and priests unto God by His blood.

And being made free from sin by the power of His Spirit, may we not be afraid to avouch Him to be our leader and commander, in the midst of an evil and perverse world. As good soldiers of Jesus Christ, may we be ready to endure hardness for His name's sake; and in His strength may we encounter enemies, and submit to trials, assured that He will help us in our time of need, and give us at last to sit down with Him upon His throne, even as He also overcame, and hath sat down with His Father upon His throne.

Nor do we pray for ourselves alone. Have compassion upon all our brethren of mankind. Hasten, we beseech Thee, the glory of that day, when Thy Son shall ask, and Thou wilt give Him the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for

His possession. Thy wrath, O Lord, is terrible: let men everywhere kiss the Son, lest He be angry. Thy love passeth knowledge: melted by Thy love, let them touch the sceptre of Thy grace, that their souls may live. Hear us, we entreat Thee, O Lord; and let each of us learn by experience, that blessed are all they that put their trust in Thee. Now unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord, art glorious in holiness, and Thou hatest all the workers of iniquity. Enable us, who are called by Thy name, to separate ourselves from all them that rise up against Thee. May we not stand in the counsel of the ungodly. Knowing that the thought of wickedness is sin, and that Thou, Lord, searchest the heart and triest the reins, may we oppose the admission into our minds of every imagination, or purpose, or desire, that may be injurious to Thine honour, or at variance with Thy will. May the way of sinners, however alluring and attractive, be regarded by us with abhorrence and alarm. And O keep us far from the seat of the scornful—from the presumptuous guilt of making a mock at sin, and blaspheming that worthy name by which we are called.

Keep us far, we beseech Thee, from the very appearance of evil. May we look with dread upon the beginnings of sin, and shun every approach to the paths

in which destroyers go. Let us not stand in their counsel, lest we be enticed to walk in their ways, and finally emboldened to join the open enemies of God, and fill the seat of the scornful. And that our minds may be fortified against temptation, be pleased, O Lord, to guide us by Thy counsel. Thou hast given us Thy word to be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Open Thou our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. Bring us to a right understanding of its truths; inspire us with a sincere and cordial love for its pure and transforming lessons; and dispose and enable us habitually to make it the theme of our grateful meditation. May we own its authority; delight in its sanctity; submit to its control; and ever look up to the Author of every good and perfect gift, to put it in our minds and write it in our hearts, and to make it, by Thy Holy Spirit, permanently effectual for our sanctification and salvation.

Thus, O Lord, may we grow in grace. May we be trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. While the ungodly are shaken by every wind, and liable every instant to be driven away in their wickedness, may we be as trees planted by the rivers of water, rooted and grounded where no drought cometh, which bring forth their fruit in season, and whose leaf withereth not.

For these mercies, O Lord, we cast ourselves upon Thee. Thou knowest our state, our character, our infirmities, our temptations, our dangers. Thou knowest our backwardness and sloth, and our many external hindrances to growth in grace. Accommodate

Thy grace to our respective circumstances, and make it sufficient for us. Bring us, we beseech Thee, in safety through the changes and perils of this present state. Clothe us with the righteousness of Thy Son, that we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Thee in the day of judgment; and prepare us by increasing measures of the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, for a place at last in the congregation of the righteous, where, with all Thy ransomed saints and holy angels, we shall see Thy face, and praise Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Three Persons, One Jehovah, world without end. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

We worship Thee, O Lord, as the Lord God omnipotent Who reigneth. We rejoice to turn from our own weakness and frailty to Thine almighty strength; and while the foundations of our happiness on earth are giving way beneath us, we bless Thee for that sure foundation which Thou hast laid in Zion, and would exult in the assurance that whosoever buildeth on it shall not be confounded, world without end. We mourn our blindness, O Lord, in mistaking shadows for an enduring substance; and we own that our punishment is less than we deserve, when we are disappointed in treasures which moth and rust do corrupt, and which every moment are ready to take wings to themselves and flee away.

Our souls cleave unto the dust. In spite of many

warnings from our own experience, and from the melancholy confessions of others, we are ever prone to commit two great evils,—to forsake the fountain of living waters, and to hew out to ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which can hold no water. But be pleased to pardon and to cure our criminal folly. Expose to our view, by the irresistible demonstration of Thy Holy Spirit, the emptiness of all created good, and the vast capacities of a soul formed after Thine image, redeemed by the precious blood of Thy dear Son, called to be a temple of the Holy Ghost, and invited to seek for glory, honour, and immortality, in Thy heavenly kingdom. Teach us, we entreat Thee, to form a just conception of real and abiding happiness; to awake from spiritual slumber; to break from the dream of imaginary satisfaction with the things which perish in the using; and with our whole soul to say, 'Whom have we in heaven but Thee, and in all the earth there is none whom we desire besides Thee: our heart and our flesh faileth, but Thou art the strength of our heart, and our portion for ever.'

At the close of this week, we desire to thank Thee for all Thy goodness and tender mercy. Prepare us and all our friends, and all Thy people, for the return of Thy holy day. May we welcome it as the holy of the Lord, and honourable,—as the day of sacred rest from worldly cares and occupations,—as the blessed memorial of the Saviour's triumph,—as the hallowed emblem, and the certain pledge, of a peaceful and perpetual Sabbath in our Father's house in heaven.

Endue Thy ministering servants with a double

portion of Thy Holy Spirit. Bless and aid them in their preparation for the sanctuary. May they and all whom Thou hast entrusted with the care of souls, have grace to be faithful; and whether they labour at home, or among the lost sheep in the distant wilderness, may the Spirit of their Master rest upon them, and may the pleasure of the Lord prosper in their hands.

And now, O Lord, we will both lay us down and sleep, for it is Thou That makest us to dwell in safety. Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen and Amen.

# Eighth Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, on this the morning of Thy day, we bless Thee that we have access to Thine ordinances, and that while many of our brethren are prevented, by the restraints of Thy providence, from joining the assemblies of Thy saints, we are permitted to wait upon Thee in the courts of Thy house, and to implore the accomplishment of Thy promise, that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt be with them, to bless them and to do them good.

We would bear on our minds the condition of those who do not participate in our privilege. With the tender sympathy of Christian affection, we would beseech the great High Priest of our profession, Who is touched with the feeling of His people's infirmities, to adapt the consolations of His Spirit to their varied cases of affliction, bereavement, alarm, or anxiety. May He Who hath promised to satiate the weary soul, and to replenish every sorrowful soul, visit them with the love of an elder brother. May He dispel the gloom of solitude by His presence, lighten the load of grief and fear by His sympathy, reconcile them to suffering, by working in them a meek acquiescence in His wise and gracious will, and supply to them the loss of outward comforts and advantages by a double portion of His Spirit. While they are ready to say,

'We are cast out of Thy sight,' let their fainting souls remember the Lord, and let their prayer come in with acceptance into Thy holy temple.

O Lord, Thou art not confined to temples made by human hands. Thy temple is Thy people's heart; Thy incense the prayer of faith. O let the sighing of the prisoner come before Thee: according to the greatness of Thy power, preserve Thou them that are appointed to die.

Let us also, O Lord, who are Thy people, and the sheep of Thy pasture, have cause this day to give Thee thanks for ever, and to show forth Thy praise to all generations. Thou art inviting us to go up to Thy house of prayer; Thou hast set open to us the gates of righteousness, may we go into them and praise the Lord. May a holy, reverential awe of Thy majesty affect and impress our minds. May a lively, animating sense of Thy love touch and quicken our cold devotions. May we recognise Thy voice in Thy Word; may we perceive and love Thine image in Thy people; and may we enjoy a foretaste of heaven in the songs and praises of the sanctuary.

Thus, O Lord, may a day in Thy courts be to us better than a thousand. When we retire from Thy house, may a transforming sense of our fellowship with God and with one another, accompany us into our retirements, attend us in the closet and the family, follow us into the world, and affect and mould our whole temper and behaviour in our various relations with mankind.

And may the blessings which we entreat for our-

selves be likewise bestowed on all our fellow-worshippers. May the triumphs of the Gospel give testimony in every place to the power and compassion of the Saviour. May He Whom Thou hast exalted to Thine own right hand, be exalted this day, by the conversion of many of His enemies.

Remember Thy covenant also with Abraham Thy servant. Let not the heathen say continually, concerning Thine ancient people, 'Where is now their God?' Remember not against them former iniquities. O God of our salvation, help them for the glory of Thy name; deliver them and purge away their sins, for Thy name's sake. And now, unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for evermore. Amen.

## SUNDAY EVENING.

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts; a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand! We thank Thee for those impressions of the truth, reality, and power of religion which may have been made upon our minds, for every addition to our knowledge, every confirmation to our faith, every enlargement of our hope, every answer to our prayers, every accession to our spiritual growth, every new approach towards conformity to the blessed image of our Lord, which may be the fruit of the services in which we have this day engaged. Perfect, we beseech Thee,

Thine own work. Countenance the labours of Thy servants in our behalf; and give testimony to the Word and institutions of Thy grace, by rendering them abundantly the means of building us up in comfort and holiness, and of preparing us finally for an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.

O Lord, lay not the sins of our holy things to our charge. Let them not come up before Thee in judgment; neither, on account of them, be moved to withdraw our privileges, or to deny us those benefits which Thine ordinances are fitted to impart.

Look also with favour upon all who have this day worshipped with us. Let not any of Thy people have cause to mourn Thine absence from them in the sanctuary. Whatever be their circumstances, temptations, or infirmities, may they all with gratitude look back to Thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of Thy temple; and be comforted in all their future trials by reflecting, that as they have heard, so likewise they have seen, in the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of their God.

Give greater efficacy, we beseech Thee, to the Word of Thy grace. O let us not have cause so often to lament that many attend Thy house, and hear Thy Word, unenlightened, unconvinced, and unimproved. Is not Thy Word, O Lord, a fire and a hammer? Let Thy work and power appear in this our day, even as in the former years, and in the times of old, of which we have heard with our ears, and of which our fathers have told us. May a spirit of missionary zeal be diffused among the members of the Church. May liberal things

be devised; may wise plans be adopted; may energetic measures be pursued; and may cordial and united prayers be daily offered, for the hastening of that time, when Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion, and when the Lord of Hosts shall destroy the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail spread over all nations, and when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.

Unite Thy people more cordially among themselves. Heal divisions among all who profess and call themselves Christians. Lead inquirers into the way of truth; and teach and dispose all to hold the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Whereto Thy people have already attained, may they walk by the same rule, may they mind the same thing; and if in anything they be diversely minded, may they look up to Thee to reveal even this unto them.

Clothe everywhere Thy priests with salvation. Exalt in their esteem the dignity of their office, and the importance of their labours. May they be willing to spend and to be spent for Christ, and for the souls for which He died.

And now, O Lord, bless each of us according to our wants and circumstances. The Lord hear us when we call upon Him; the Lord hear us with the saving strength of His right hand! And now, unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory and honour, dominion and power, world without end. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

BLESSED God, in Whom we live, and move, and have our being, to Whom can we go but unto Thee? Teach us gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of Thy providence. From day to day Thou art supplying us with food convenient for us; Thou renewest our strength by the slumbers of the night; and, with the returning light of every morning, Thou affordest us new occasions of grateful thanksgiving.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits? Teach us, we entreat Thee, to acknowledge Thee in all Thy gifts. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: let not us, whom Thou hast endowed with a nobler nature, and blessed with higher mercies, fall beneath the inferior creation in the scale of gratitude. Thy hand feeds us; Thy providence protects us; Thy mercy spares us; Thy loving-kindness varies its expressions with our ever-varying circumstances, and is new to us every morning and every evening. Let every blessing raise our affections to Thyself, the bountiful source of all blessings, and prompt us to show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but with our hearts, and in our lives.

And while we are duly thankful for the bounties of providence, inspire us also, we beseech Thee, with a sincere and cordial relish for the blessings of Thy salvation. Thy mercy, O Lord, has made provision for the wants of our souls. O let us weigh the value

of our souls, that we may feel our obligations to the grace which has been displayed towards them. Let us think of the glory of the Saviour, that we may be profoundly impressed with the great love wherewith He loved us, in laying down His life for our sakes. Let us meditate on the transcendent worth, the urgent necessity, the infinite variety, the everlasting duration of the blessings of the Gospel, that we may be duly affected by the liberality which includes all things in the inheritance to which Thou hast called us in Christ Jesus. And when we reflect that all this love has been shown to us sinners, may our hearts melt within us, may our repentance be deep, genuine, and lively; and instead of any longer hating, or fearing, or shunning God, may we love Him with all our hearts, serve Him with all our strength, and seek the advancement of His glory with all our soul and mind.

For this purpose be pleased, we beseech Thee, to follow with Thy blessing the public and private exercises of Thy worship in which we yesterday engaged. With grief and shame we own, that without Thy Spirit, outward privileges have no effect on minds so dark and hard as ours. But let Thy Spirit be poured forth, and we shall have eyes to see, hearts to feel, mouths to speak, hands to labour, and feet to run. Let our prayer, therefore, come near before Thee, O Lord; give us understanding according to Thy Word. Be with us this day. Let Thy hand help us, for we have chosen Thy precepts. Let our friends and all who are united to us, by whatever tie, be the objects

of Thy paternal regard and blessing; and all that we ask is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory everlasting. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

We worship Thee, O Lord, Whom all thy works praise, and Thy saints bless. Strengthen, we beseech Thee, our feeble conceptions of Thy glorious perfections. Exalt our thoughts above all that is called great on earth, above all that is excellent in creatures, whether in heaven above or in this world beneath; and enable us humbly to adore the unseen majesty of the ever-blessed God, in Whose presence the seraphim cover their faces with their wings, and before Whose throne the companies of the redeemed cast their golden crowns.

Thou are worthy to be feared and had in reverence; yet who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord, who can show forth all His praise? Thou art above all blessing, and praise, and honour, and glory, and thanksgiving. The songs of heaven, the worship of angels, the acclamations of the redeemed, the anthems of all creation, are but a faint and inexpressive homage to Thine unspeakable perfection.

Wherewithal then, O Lord, shall we find words to praise Thee? Blessed be Thy name, the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, Thou, O God, wilt not despise. Be Thou, then, O

our God, the author in our hearts of the worship and service which Thou wilt accept. Send down upon us the Spirit of Thy Son; send down upon us the Spirit of adoption: quicken Thou us, that we may call upon Thy name. O let Thy Holy Spirit be given to break the flinty soul, to bend the rebellious will, to soften, to warm, to reclaim the cold, and stubborn, and wayward heart, to touch with living fire the dead, inanimate sacrifice, that the long-extinguished spark may again revive, and the flame of pure and acceptable devotion may point again to heaven.

O our God and Father, we have all wandered from Thee like lost sheep. Like prodigal children, we have left our Father's house; and in forsaking Thee we have forsaken our own mercies. But now we would arise and return unto our Father. We are no more worthy to be called Thy sons; but deal not with us as we have sinned, but according to Thy mercy remember us, for Thy goodness' sake. Behold we come unto Thee, for Thou art the Lord our God. We approach Thee in Thine own way; we come to Thee through Thine own Son; we rely on Thine own promises; we plead with Thee in Thine own words. Take away all our iniquity; receive us graciously; heal our backslidings; and love us freely. Do to us, do for us, and do in us, what things soever Thou knowest to be needful for us,—whether for our acceptance at the tribunal of Thy justice, our sanctification in order to Thy service, our adoption as members of Thy family, our progressive advancement in resemblance to Thine image, or our perseverance unto

the end in the way that leadeth to Thy kingdom. Correct us, as a Father, when we do wrong; lead us back to Thyself, when we go astray; be our helper in temptation, our shelter and defence in danger, the joy of our heart and the lifter up of our head, when we are cast down and sorrowful.

And these mercies which we beg for ourselves, we beseech Thee likewise to bestow upon all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence. Increase and multiply Thy mercy everywhere, that we, with all Thy saints, may bless Thy name in one common song of thanksgiving and praise for ever, through Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O God, by Whom we have been preserved during the past night, we desire, with the returning light of this morning, to awake from spiritual slumber, and to call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless and to magnify Thy holy name. We worship Thee as our Creator, in Whom we live and move, and have our being. We adore Thee as our Preserver, by Whose visitation our bodies are refreshed, and our spirits revived. Above all, we bless Thee, as our Redeemer and infinite Benefactor in Christ Jesus, Who hast saved us from a fearful pit and from the miry clay, and Who hast put a new song of praise and thanksgiving into our mouths.

We would dwell upon the exceeding riches of Thy

grace, in Thy kindness towards us by Christ Jesus. When we were enemies, we were reconciled by the death of Thy Son; when we were afar off, Thou didst bring us nigh by His precious blood; when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for us.

With joy we would hearken to the heavenly message which proclaims glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will to the children of men. As sinners who are alive to the miseries and dangers of their condition, we would accept with gratitude the unspeakable gift of God to man, and welcome it as a faithful saying, and worthy of our own acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

And O do Thou Who hast shown Thy love, not only by giving us Thy Son, but by promising Thy Spirit, work in us, we beseech Thee, precious faith in Thine own testimony concerning Thy Son. We own with contrition and self-abasement the slowness of our hearts to believe Thy Word, our indisposition to accept Thy gift, our proneness to deceive ourselves with an outward show of submission to the righteousness which is of God by faith. We own that, if left to ourselves, we shall rest in indifference, or trust to a refuge of lies, or sink into formality, or yield ourselves up to sloth and self-indulgence. But do Thou revive and quicken us, according to Thy Word. Let Thy Holy Spirit breathe upon our souls; let Him convince us of sin, that we may be alarmed; of righteousness, that we may turn for safety to the Saviour; of judgment,

that we may be encouraged to encounter and resist the prince of this world, whom the Captain of our salvation hath judged and overcome.

Thus, O Lord, do Thou carry on Thine own work within us. Advance it daily, from languid beginnings and partial manifestations, unto complete maturity. Advance it, O our God, not according to our slow calculations of progress, not according to the rate of our hesitating, faltering purposes, but according to the measure of Thine own glorious design, and the working of Thine own mighty power, by which Thou givest life to the dead, strength to the faint, and callest things that are not as though they were.

Let Thy work and power appear this day in our experience. May our path be as the shining light. May we go from strength to strength, ready for every duty, patient under every trial, and superior to every temptation. May our friends share with us in the care of Thy providence, and in the blessings of Thy grace. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus our Lord, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thy name is excellent in all the earth. We thank Thee for the many proofs which we ourselves have experienced of Thy liberality and care. From

Thy hand we receive our daily bread; Thy watchful eye follows us in all our ways; Thy patience bears with us in the midst of many provocations; Thy bounty crowns our labours with success; and Thy rich and undeserved goodness bestows upon us innumerable blessings, for which we have neither toiled nor taken thought. The food which we eat, the raiment which we wear, the air which we breathe, the common bounties and blessings of providence, so familiar as to escape our notice, yet so necessary, that without them we should die and return to our dust, are all Thy gifts. And if there be a spirit in man; if we possess a mind that embraces the past, the present, and the future, that penetrates the invisible world, and connects us with Thy throne; if we have more knowledge than the beasts of the earth, and are wiser than the fowls of heaven, and are but a little lower than the angels, it is because Thine inspiration hath given us understanding, and because Thou hast created us in Thy likeness, after Thine own glorious image.

We would acknowledge Thy hand in all Thy dealings with us, and would not be forgetful of any of Thy benefits. Thou hast led us in a plain path, opened rivers for us in the wilderness, and fountains in the desert; made our enemies to be at peace with us, and raised up for us friends to aid us by their counsel and encourage us by their sympathy: Thou hast given food for our bodies, means of improvement for our minds; and, amidst the decay and emptiness of all earthly good, Thou hast extended our prospects to an eternal world, where Thou Thyself livest and

reignest, the portion of the immortal mind, for ever and ever.

O Lord, we are lost in the contemplation of Thy goodness. Our thoughts cannot reach it; our words are feeble and unmeaning when we attempt to speak of it. And what shall we say, when we think of Thy grace in Christ Jesus! What shall we say, when we attempt to thank Thee for an unspeakable gift! O the depth of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! O the breadth and the length, the depth and the height, of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge! For this cause we bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, beseeching Him, the Father of glory, that He would give unto us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of His most precious gift, that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, we may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe. O may He, Who, by giving us His Son, hath given us encouragement and a right to ask Him for all things, strengthen us with might, by His Spirit, in the inner man, that we may comprehend the vastness of His gifts, and be able, with all saints, to bless Him for them, thankfully to receive them, and worthily to improve them. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith; and being rooted and grounded in love, and united to Him by an indissoluble bond, may we grow up unto Him in all things, receiving nourishment from Him as our living head, and increasing in resemblance to Him with the increase of God.

Hear us for these things, O Lord, we entreat Thee; protect and spare us during this night, and, with the light of another day, grant us grace to walk as the children of so many mercies. And now unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou hast searched and known us: Thou knowest our sitting down and our rising up; and Thou understandest our thoughts afar off. May we be affected with profound awe when we reflect on Thine omniscience and omnipresence. May we be penetrated with a sense of our unworthiness, and be humbled even to the very dust, when we remember that He with Whom we have to do is not only the witness of our actions and the hearer of our words, but the searcher of our hearts. And seeing, O Lord, that all our righteousness must appear in Thy sight unsubstantial and polluted, may we be led with renewed faith to the blood of sprinkling and the Spirit of all grace, that our consciences may be purged, and our hearts disposed to serve the living God.

Gracious Lord, Who art especially near to them that call upon Thee, be pleased to manifest Thy presence among us at this time, by enabling us to serve Thee acceptably and with a willing mind. Bestow upon us the dispositions that are requisite for Thy worship. Thou desirest truth in the inward parts;

in the hidden part cause us therefore to know wisdom. Thou lookest not on the outward appearance; create in us clean hearts, renew in us right spirits.

And when we leave Thy throne, and enter this day on the business of ordinary life, enable us to bear continually upon our minds a subduing and sanctifying sense of Thy presence and wakeful superintendence. We cannot go from Thy Spirit, or flee from Thy presence. O may the thought of escaping from God be a stranger to our minds. May we rejoice that we are ever under the eye of our Heavenly Father, and that He Who is wise in heart, and mighty in power, is constantly at our right hand, to guide us by His counsel, to strengthen us by His Spirit, and to give His angels charge over us, to keep us in all our ways.

Under these impressions, we would this day commit ourselves to Thy care. We thank Thee that Thou compassest our path, and art acquainted with all our ways. It is because we forget Thee, and lose sight of Thy gracious presence, that we are at any time hurried into sin, or discouraged in Thy service, or cast into heaviness through manifold temptations. Help us, therefore, this day to live in the realizing faith of Thy providence and care. If labouring under trials, may we approach Thee with our burdens, and cast them upon Thee. If perplexed and ignorant, may we trust our Heavenly Father's wisdom, and look up to Him, the Father of lights, to impart what may be necessary for our guidance and comfort. In the discharge of our respective duties, and while contending with corruption in ourselves, and temptation in the world, be

Thou near, O Lord, to help and to encourage us: make crooked things straight before us, and rough places plain; and produce in our minds the holy calm of a believing reliance on Thy power and love, as infinitely sufficient to make all things work together for our final good.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for all Thy past goodness. Continue to watch over us, and over all who are dear to us. Lead us this day in the way which we ought to choose, and teach us habitually to lift our thoughts to Thee as the source of our happiness, as well as the object of our fear, and the supreme end of our existence. Hear us, we entreat Thee, O Lord, and let our supplications find acceptance in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not. We thank Thee that Thou hast so loved the world, as to send Thy Son into it, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. O may we be enabled to look unto Him, as the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world; and seeing that He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, and endured the chastisement of our peace, may we part with the slavish fears of a guilty conscience, and enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For this purpose, O Lord, be pleased to enlighten

our understandings day by day in the knowledge of Thy Son, and to open our hearts more and more to Thy testimony concerning Him. May we enter more deeply into the meaning of the Gospel, and find it to be indeed tidings of great joy to our souls. May the Saviour appear to us in all His compassion and love; and to us believing may He be unspeakably precious. May we love Him Who first loved us: may the greatness of His salvation, and the freeness with which it is presented to us, fill us with an overpowering sense of grateful obligation; and may an enlarged, and affectionate, and generous spirit of devoted attachment to Him, Who gave Himself for us, be effectually wrought in us by the power of the Holy Ghost.

And having received the Spirit of Thy Son, may we daily advance in the Divine life. Being made free from sin, forbid that we should ever relapse into bondage. With the simplicity of children, but with the strength of full age, may we hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; hating sin, loving the Saviour, distrusting ourselves, and drawing hope and comfort from the Gospel of Thy grace alone. May we never be contented with our spiritual attainments, whatever these may be. May our aims be high. May the bright example of the Saviour attract and captivate our hearts; and to be like Him Who did no sin, but was holy, harmless, undefiled, and Who in all things pleased the Father, may this be the daily subject of our prayers, and the unceasing object of our endeavours and desires.

And that our labour may not be in vain, strengthen us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. Enable us to resist every tendency to sloth and spiritual indifference. Make us watchful, active, resolute, and persevering in our warfare with our spiritual enemies. Keep us close to the fountain of spiritual strength and sufficiency; and enable us, under every outward trial and discouragement, to cherish a sustained and joyful assurance of the faithfulness of Thy promises and the power of Thy grace.

We commit ourselves, O Lord, to Thy protection this night. Defend us, and all who are dear to us, from danger. Extend Thy care and blessing to all our brethren of mankind. And advance Thine own glory, by promoting the cause of truth and holiness throughout the world. All that we ask is for Christ's sake, to Whom be glory, world without end. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord, we come before Thee this morning in the multitude of Thy mercies. To Thee we owe our health of body, our soundness of mind, the gift of reason, the light of conscience, the means of knowledge, the capacity and opportunity of improvement, the comforts of domestic and social life, and every distinction and advantage that enter into our lot.

Nor are we merely the monuments of Thy care; we are witnesses to Thine undeserved forbearance

and paternal compassion. How often, O Lord, have we been unmindful of Thee in the midst of Thy benefits! How often have we misapplied our faculties, abused our privileges, neglected our opportunities, squandered our talents, wasted our time, and acted foolishly and sinfully in our relations with our fellow-men! Unto us belong shame and confusion of face, for our folly in childhood, our self-will in youth, our worldly-mindedness in prosperity, our distrust and despondency in adversity.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. Penetrated by the mercies of which we are, and have so long been, the objects and the witnesses, we would this morning present ourselves as living sacrifices unto God, holy, acceptable, which is our reasonable service. If, in past time, any of us have been awakened to a due sense of sin, and have been led by Thy Spirit to lay hold of the hope set before us in the Gospel, we would now renew our engagements to Thy service, and, with fresh desire and deeper earnestness, would beseech Thee to confirm our repentance, to increase our faith, to quicken our gratitude, and to perfect that which concerneth us.

If the heart of any be still estranged from Thee, if our understandings be still held in darkness, through the deceitfulness of sin; if our desires and affections be still the property of the world; if any of us be still living without God and without the hope which the Gospel of His grace alone can afford, O be pleased to break the chain by which we are so miserably enslaved and bound. Say unto the prisoners, 'Go forth,' and

[illegible] darkness. "Show yourselves." As [illegible] Thou wilt by bringing the blind by a way that they know not, and by leading them in paths that they have not known: by making darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

Petitions the hearts of sinners everywhere will [illegible] and impress them also with a con[illegible] sense of Thy great love in Jesus Christ. Let a means which are employed for the diffusion of the knowledge of the Gospel be accompanied with [illegible] blessing and a wider efficacy. Thou hast [illegible] Thyself and the word hath gone out of Thy mouth in Thy righteousness, and shall not return, that unto Thy Son every knee shall bow, and every tongue swear. Hasten Thy promise, O Lord. And in the [illegible] sustain the drooping hopes of Thy people, by comforting Zion, and making her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord.

Hear us, we entreat Thee, gracious God. Thou knowest all our wants: Thou knowest all our hearts. Accommodate Thy grace to our respective necessities, and let each of us, and let all whom we ought to bear in remembrance at the footstool of Thy throne, have cause to bless Thee for the abundance of Thy mercy, and the prevailing merits and inexhaustible fulness of our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be honour and glory, both now and for ever. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

O THOU omniscient Jehovah, Who, from the place of Thy habitation, not only lookest upon all the inhabitants of the earth, and considerest all their works, but Who searchest the heart and triest the reins of the children of men, we feel how vain it is to practise deceit upon Thee. We come to Thee with hearts naturally full of falsehood and hypocrisy; but we present them to Thee to be created anew in Christ Jesus, to be cleansed from those impurities which make us dread to expose them to Thine inspection, and to be inspired with holy love and filial fear, that we may worship Thee acceptably in spirit and in truth, and no longer mock Thee with unreal incense and vain oblations. We, who are but dust and ashes, have taken upon us to speak unto the Lord: may our conceptions of Thy glory bear some proportion to Thy greatness and majesty. May we be humbled under a sense of sin, in the presence of a holy Lord God. May we be encouraged to confess our sins, and to make known our wants, at the throne of covenant mercy and promised grace. O may we feel our distance, our dependence, our insignificance, our deep and utter unworthiness; but O may we likewise be supported and encouraged when we remember Thy name, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to anger, abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin.

Blessed God, send into our hearts the Spirit of Thy

Son. Thou hast given us exceeding great and precious promises. Open our hearts to a belief of their reality, and to a sense of their value. Encourage us to plead them in Thy presence, and to receive the comfort of an assured persuasion, that Thou wilt faithfully fulfil them in our experience. According to the measure of Thy sovereign mercy, be pleased to expand our faith and our desires. We are not straitened in Thee: let us not be straitened in our own petitions; but enlarge our hearts and enlarge our prayers, to take in the full stream of blessing which flows to us through the channel of Thy Son.

At this time, O Lord, we would lay open our souls to the communications of Thy grace. Fulfil, we beseech Thee, Thy promises to us, and bestow upon each of us all the varied good of which they are the pledge. Give us health for our sickness, strength for our weakness, wealth for our poverty, life for our death. Give us, for Thou knowest what we need, all the blessings that are peculiarly suited to our respective circumstances. Give us in due measure the needful supply; and give it in the time of need. Give it so that Thy hand shall be seen in the gift, Thy wisdom recognised in the season and manner of bestowing it, Thy liberality and fatherly munificence acknowledged in its abundance and all-sufficiency. Give it, so that Thy work may advance within us, that Thine image may brighten on our souls, that Thy Son may be glorified, and that Thine honour, and the honour of Thy Gospel, may be promoted by our example in the world.

Hear us for these things, we entreat Thee, O Lord.

To Thy mercy we commend ourselves, and all who are dear to us, this night and for ever. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, by Thy good providence we have been preserved during the past night. As we are now about to enter on the business and duties of another day, help us to set Thee continually before us, and to make it our endeavour, in every relation of life, to walk so as to please God. May we act from holy and religious motives in the lesser as well as in the greater concerns in which we are called to take part. O may we never imagine that we shall be more safe or happy, if freed from the restraints of Thy law or the remembrance of Thy presence. May we habitually remember that our time, our faculties, our property, our influence, are talents for which we must give an account; and, under a solemn impression of deep and constant responsibility, may we transfer to our ordinary occupations and pursuits the feelings of a dying hour, and labour in all things, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, to do all to the glory of God.

We lament, O Lord, our indisposition to live under a prevailing sense of Thy presence, and of our own accountableness. We lament the native ungodliness of our hearts, and the false and foolish notions which we are so apt to entertain of freedom and of happiness.

Be pleased to rebuke the natural enmity of our souls. Show us the force and cause us to feel the constraining influence of the obligations under which we lie to Thy service; and awaken us to the shame and wretchedness of that mistaken liberty which they promise themselves who are the servants of corruption. O may we shake off the influence of every delusive dream by which the soul is entangled and overcome; and may we turn unto the Lord with all our hearts, owning His right to rule over us, and taking pleasure in the thought, that He Who is our ruler and our judge is likewise our compassionate friend, our bountiful benefactor, our Almighty guardian, our gracious and heavenly Father.

In this spirit may we walk through life. Amidst its various duties and distractions, may we keep our ears open to the instructions of Thy Word, and our eyes intent on the intimations of Thy providence. And O do Thou Who openest the ears to discipline, and preparest the heart for the reception of wisdom, be pleased to take us by the hand, and lead us in the way in which we ought to go, discovering to us at every step the path of duty, and confirming us in it by continual supplies of help and encouragement from the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the promised fulness of Thy Holy Spirit's influences.

We commend all our friends to Thy guidance and protection. Inspire us with Christian affection for all whom Thou hast united to us by any tie. We pray for the whole family of the faithful. May the hearts of all Thy children be knit together in love to one

another. May nothing be done by any of them through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind, may each esteem others better than themselves.

Hasten, we pray Thee, the coming and glory of Thy kingdom. Though now we see not yet all things put under Messiah, may we and all Thy people, resting in Thy Word, continue patient in hope, wakeful in expectation, active in duty, and instant in prayer. Hear us, we entreat Thee, O Lord, for all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen and Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

Blessed God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who willest not the death of sinners, we, Thine unworthy creatures, who have sinned against Thee, desire to humble ourselves in Thy presence, and to supplicate Thy mercy. Thou knowest all our foolishness, and our sins are not hid from Thee. Thou knowest the deeds of our life, the words of our mouth, and the imaginations of our heart; and to Thine all-seeing eye, the taint of sin appears in all that we have done, and spoken, and thought. Even in our best estate, we are altogether vanity.

But Thou, O Lord, art full of compassion and of great mercy. Though we have no plea of our own to stay the sentence of Thy justice, we have a great High Priest Who hath passed into the heavens,—Jesus the Son of God; and Him Thou hearest always. We rejoice in the sufficiency of His sacrifice, and

the prevalence of His intercession; and for His sake we beseech Thee to have mercy upon us, to hide Thy face from our sins, and to blot out all our iniquities. Justify us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; and magnify Thy grace, by granting us, not merely the remission of our sins, but a place in Thy family, and a name, as Thou hast promised, better than that of sons and daughters.

We pray, O Lord, for deliverance from the shame and consequences of our sins; but chiefly, we pray for deliverance from the bondage and misery of sin itself. Free us, we entreat Thee, from darkness of understanding, hardness of heart, and perverseness of temper and disposition: Free us from that spiritual torpor, that oppressive languor, that anxious experience of warring convictions and opposing tendencies, that sluggish faith and reluctant will, which impede our Christian progress, and cast a frequent cloud over our comforts and our hopes. Encourage and animate us by ampler communications of Thy love, by brighter beams of light from Thy favourable countenance, by fuller effusions of Thy good and holy Spirit, by a more healthful sense of the progress of Thy work within us.

Strengthen us day by day for the duties before us. We are in ourselves poor and needy, but let Thy salvation set us up on high. Help us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, by a cheerful, patient, humble, and consistent deportment. May we abound always in the work of the Lord. And whatever be the circumstances in which Thy providence places us, may we be always ready for the duties of our situa-

tion; and may our light so shine, that others, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father Which is in heaven.

We commend ourselves to Thy care during the silence and darkness of this night. Bless and protect all who are dear to us. Be very merciful to all who are in circumstances of affliction and danger. Be gracious to all Thy people, and extend Thy compassion to all mankind.

Thou hast said, O Lord, that Thou wilt save Zion and build the cities of Judah, and that the whole earth shall see Thy salvation. Hasten the time when Thy promise shall be fulfilled. O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and let the glory of the Lord be revealed, and let all flesh see it together; for the sake of Jesus Christ, for Whom we bless Thee, and to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be everlasting praise, honour, and thanksgiving. Amen and Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our Creator, Preserver, and unwearied Benefactor, Who makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over us, what shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits? With shame and contrition we acknowledge, that in time past we have too often not walked as the children of so many mercies. How insensible have we been to much of the goodness of which Thou hast made us the

objects! How often have we withheld the gratitude and obedience which were Thy due! And how often have we devoted Thy gifts to purposes for which they were never designed, and despised the riches of Thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering!

But, O Lord, we lament the folly and ingratitude of which we have been guilty. We mourn the hardness and impenitence of our hearts. With grief we own, that but for mercy we must have been treasuring up for ourselves wrath against the day of wrath. But have mercy upon us, we beseech Thee, O our Father; have mercy upon us, who have so grievously offended and provoked Thee. Thy goodness is not confined to temporal blessings, or to outward offers of spiritual mercies. Thou hast given us the sure mercies of David, and hast promised us Thy Holy Spirit, as an inward and effectual teacher, an abiding and an all-powerful source of spiritual and eternal life. O may Thy Spirit be given to us as the fountain and pledge of all heavenly and spiritual blessings. According to the greatness of His power, let His work commence and proceed in our souls. A new heart may He give us; a right spirit may He put within us. May He put Thy laws in our minds, and write them in our hearts. With sovereign efficacy may He apply to us the doctrine of Thy Word as the remedy for all our spiritual diseases; and by drawing us to Thy Son, and uniting us to Him, may He make us partakers of a Divine nature, and effectually subdue us to the obedience of faith.

And in testimony of His saving work in our experi-

ence, may we henceforward live unto Thee. O may we, from this moment, feel with new power the constraining force of our obligations to Divine love. May we feel as captives ransomed by the precious blood of Christ; as temples consecrated by the indwelling of the Spirit of God; as new creatures snatched from destruction, and restored to consciousness and life, by the love of their Heavenly Father. Henceforward may all our powers and opportunities, our time, our substance, and our influence, be willingly dedicated to Thy service; and may our whole life in this world be a diligent and consistent act of preparation for the higher and holier services of the life to come.

Keep us this day from the evil that is in the world. Preserve and bless all our relations and friends; extend Thy goodness to all our neighbours, to all ranks of persons in our native land, and to all sorts and conditions of men throughout the world. May pure and undefiled religion everywhere prevail; and may the prayers and the labours of Thy servants, who love Thy name and seek the prosperity of Zion, be crowned with an abundant and a speedy blessing. And all that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, at the close of this week we desire to review the course of Thy providence toward us, and to retire to rest under a thankful sense of Thy manifold goodness and mercy. Many, O Lord our God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward. We are dependent and destitute; and Thou hast given us all things richly to enjoy. We are weak and defenceless; and Thou hast set an hedge about us, and about all that we have on every side. We are self-willed and presumptuous; and Thou hast borne with our perverseness and spared us, as a man spareth the son that serveth him. How often hast Thou given us the blessings which we neglected to ask, and denied us the false and dangerous gratifications on which we had set our hearts! How often has Thy wisdom corrected our folly, and Thy power been our shield in the midst of impending calamity and danger!

But chiefly, O Lord, would we magnify Thy name for the riches of Thy grace. We thank Thee for Jesus Christ, Thine unspeakable gift, for eternal life through Him, and for all those means by which Thy mercy finds a channel to our souls. We bless Thee for the prospect of another day of the Son of Man. Blessed be God for the rest of the Sabbath, for the interruption it affords to the business of the week, and for the opportunity it offers of fellowship with the Father and the Son, in the exercises of the sanctuary and the closet.

Prepare us, we beseech Thee, for the duties of Thy holy day. How often, O Lord, at the close of Thy day, have we confessed and bewailed the sins of our holy things! How often have we had cause to cry out in confusion and shame, 'God be merciful unto us sinners!' Now therefore, O our God, grant us, we beseech Thee, that preparation of the heart for the services of Thy day, which we know and feel belongs not to ourselves, but cometh from Thee only. O let Thy Spirit, Thy quickening Spirit, rouse our dull and lifeless souls, that, after the slumbers of the night, we may awake to a joyful consciousness of spiritual animation and vigour; that in our dwelling there may be heard the voice of joy and health; and that the language of each heart may be, 'This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it; we will go into His tabernacles; we will worship at His footstool.'

Nor do we pray for ourselves alone. Bless, we beseech Thee, all Thy people, and especially Thy ministering servants. Prepare and strengthen them for their respective duties. Free them from the distracting influence of worldly cares and anxieties. May a day in Thy courts be to them better than a thousand. Penetrate the darkness which still hangs over so many of our fellow-men. Have compassion upon the heathen; and forgive the guilt of those who, in the midst of Christian light, live in heathen darkness. Is not Thy word quick and powerful? Give it, we beseech Thee, a commission, as in the days of old, as in the times of which our fathers have

tell us, when Thou rendedst the heavens, and didst come down, and the mountains flowed down at Thy presence. Send it forth as the rod of Thy strength out of Zion, to pluck down and to build up; and let it still be seen, that Thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save, and that signs and wonders are still done by the name of Thy holy child Jesus.

We commend ourselves to Thy care through this night. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost. One God, be with us, and with all the people of God, both now and for evermore. Amen.

# Sacramental Prayers.

## MORNING OF A FAST DAY.

UNTO Thee, O Lord, do we this morning lift up our souls. O our God, we trust in Thee; let us not be ashamed. We are not worthy of the least of Thy mercies; for we are apostate creatures, children who have corrupted their way, whose hearts are deceitful and evil, and whose feet have wandered far from the paths of peace.

Humble us under a sense of our depravity and guilt. Convince us of the evil of sin. Show us the deep hold which it has taken of our souls, the malignant taint which it has spread through our nature, the melancholy blight which it has shed upon all our affections and powers, and the baleful fruit it has brought forth in our temper and our conduct. May we be humbled to the dust, when we reflect on the aggravations of our offences, committed under the eye of God, and in contempt of the justest authority and the greatest love. May the coldness of our peni-

[illegible] and the blackness of our transgressions, may [illegible] our hearts. May the insensibility with which we can think of sin, and acknowledge that we are [illegible] guilty, be a discovery of the entire possession which sin has naturally taken of our souls and nature, be with an affecting apprehension, lest we should not yet be alive to its real evil, nor be in a posture to escape from its impending dangers.

We are guilty, O Lord, in Thy sight: and our guilt exceeds the measure both of our conceptions and of our language. But we turn to Thee to save us from our sins, and to quicken us to repentance. Thou hast been pleased to give Thy Son for our salvation: and Him Thou hast exalted at Thine own right hand for this very end. To Him, therefore, we now look. Blessed Saviour, to whom can we go but unto Thee? Thou hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: Thou wast wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities: Thou wast brought to the dust of death, that we might not go down to the pit. To whom can we go but unto Thee? Thou now livest for evermore. All power in heaven and in earth is in Thy hands. And because Thou didst make Thy soul an offering for sin, it hath pleased the Father that Thou shouldst give eternal life to as many as believe in Thee. O strengthen our faith, that, though now we see Thee not, yet believing, we may rejoice in Thy Divine compassion and saving power. To Thee we surrender ourselves to be saved in Thine own way, to be washed from guilt in Thy precious blood, to be justified by Thy most perfect

righteousness, to be sanctified by the indwelling of Thy blessed Spirit, to be conformed to Thy holy image, to be guided by Thy good and righteous law, to be actuated continually by motives drawn from Thine unspeakable love, and to be matured and prepared for admission, in Thy good time, to Thy heavenly kingdom.

We bring to Thee an evil heart—a worthless offering. But we present it, that Thou mayest breathe upon it, and give it life; that Thou mayest mould and fashion it according to Thy will; that Thou mayest write Thy name upon it, and put Thy fear within it; that Thou mayest accept it as the free-will offering of creatures whom Thou hast redeemed, and present it to the Father, not as ours, but as Thine own workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Receive, O Lord, the offering we present; receive it graciously; and while, on this day of humiliation, we confess our sins, and lament the plague of our own hearts, O do Thou pardon our sins, and give us new hearts and right spirits, that henceforward, being made free from sin, and become servants to God, we may have our fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Now unto God, even the Father, to Jesus Christ, the only wise God, and our Saviour, and to the Spirit of all grace, Three Persons, One Jehovah, be glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

## EVENING OF A FAST DAY.

O LORD, at the close of this day of humiliation and prayer, we again approach Thy throne, to renew our confessions and supplications. We are not worthy to lift up our eyes to the place where Thou dwellest; for if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Humble us, especially, under a sense of sin in our nature. Inspire us with genuine sorrow and self-abasement, when we reflect on the deep seat which this disease has taken in our souls; when we regard it as the leprosy spread over our whole inner man, the deadly poison that wastes our moral being at its fountain, and that worketh death in every one of us, until Thy sovereign hand apply the remedy, and stay the plague. We would trace the workings of this great evil in our heart, in our conscience, in our understanding, in our temper, in our will, in our conduct. We would mourn over its influence in all our relations, whether as individuals, as members of society, or as subjects of Thy government. We confess its power in all the stages of our past life, from childhood to the present moment. We own with shame and abasement of heart, that in us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing; that to renew us after Thine image must be Thine own work; that to do evil is ever present with us, and that how to do good we cannot of ourselves understand.

Humble us, O Lord, when we consider that even

on this day, when we have professed to acknowledge and bewail our transgressions, sin has exerted so much power over us. How dead has been our repentance, how partial have been our confessions, how languid our entreaties for forgiveness, how unlike our feelings to those of the genuine penitent, who smote upon his breast, and could not so much as lift up his eyes unto heaven.

But, O our God, we turn from ourselves; we flee to Thee for succour and for hope. Thou hast so loved the world as to send Thine only begotten Son into it, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We believe, O Lord; help Thou our unbelief. We are sinners, but we cast ourselves upon the infinite mercy of Him Who came to call sinners to repentance.

O may He, Who now sitteth at the Father's right hand, magnify the power with which He is invested, by stretching forth His hand for our deliverance and sanctification. May He bestow upon us the grace of true repentance, as well as the gift of full forgiveness. May the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier and the Comforter, be shed upon us abundantly, that we may behold our sins in the light of Thy law, and that an end may be put for ever to the treacherous calm of self-security; and that we may be shut up for safety, for comfort, and for hope, to the Saviour's cross, and to the faith of His Gospel. O may we look daily upon Him Whom we have pierced; and may we learn the evil, the malignity, the bitterness of sin, from the sufferings He endured. And, while we mourn and are in bitter-

ness, may He restrain our griefs by the consolations of His Spirit: may He pour the oil of gladness into the troubled waters, and say to the storm within, 'Peace, be still.' Not as the world giveth, may He bestow His blessing upon us. May He be in us by His Spirit, and dwell with us for ever, extending daily the dominion of His kingly office in our souls, subduing us more entirely unto Himself, and constraining us more effectually and cheerfully to yield to Him the supreme affection of our hearts, and the unreserved obedience of our lives.

Carry forward, we beseech Thee, this good work of Thy grace, by means of the exercises of this day. Deepen our repentance, stimulate our faith, enforce our obligations to holiness and duty, and prepare us for the final services of Thy kingdom, when, with all Thy redeemed, we shall rest for ever from the warfare of sin, and be made exceeding glad with Thy countenance. All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake; to Whom be glory for ever. Amen and Amen.

## FOR THE EVENING BEFORE A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O Lord, Thou art glorious in holiness; and Thou wilt be sanctified of all them that draw nigh unto Thee. With our whole heart, O Lord, we would engage in Thy service. Be pleased, O Thou Who art acquainted with the deceitfulness of our hearts, to prepare them for the solemnities of Thy worship. We

would bring to Thine altar a living sacrifice: command, we entreat Thee, fire from heaven to consume its impurities; infuse the vital principle, to give it warmth and life; sprinkle the incense in which it shall ascend, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing unto God.

O Lord, we are sensible of so much within us that is offensive to Thy pure eye, so much that requires to be altered, so much that needs to be amended, so much defect and error in our understandings, so much coldness in our affections, so much inconstancy in our purposes, so great an insensibility in our consciences, so much perverseness in our wills, so much that is unholy and inconsistent in our conduct and profession, that we might justly tremble to approach Thy table. But Thy compassion is our stay. Thou hast said that Thou wilt not break the bruised reed, that Thou wilt not quench the smoking flax.

With humble boldness may we pass the fence with which Thou hast guarded Thy table, and, with filial gratitude, may we partake of the children's bread. Strengthen our faith to discern the Lord's body; and help us, with thanksgiving and love, to feed upon it as the appointed nourishment of our spiritual frame.

And while our feet are in Thy holy place, O may He, Who is the object of faith, and the life of ordinances, manifest Himself unto us as He doth not unto the world. Blessed Saviour, Who wast with Thy people in the wilderness; Who spakest to them in the cloudy pillar; Who feddest them with manna that they fainted not; Who wast the spiritual rock

that followed them, Whose stream they drank; be with us also, that we likewise may own Thy presence in Thine ordinances, and bless Thy name for ever, as the same to-day as Thou wast yesterday. Resolve our doubts, allay our fears, remove our perplexities; and let Thy Holy Spirit, the Comforter, descend upon us and upon all our worshipping brethren, to relieve every want, heal every wound, and satisfy every desire of the longing soul that pants for God, for the living God.

Be especially with Thy ministering servants. Speak to their hearts the words of encouragement which they shall address to us. With Thine ancient servant, may it be their privilege to say, 'That which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and handled of the bread of life; that which we have seen and heard, declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.'

And now, O Lord, let Thy name be hallowed in Thine ordinance, hallowed by us, and hallowed by all who, like us, shall partake of it. Keep back from Thy table the presumptuous and the profane. Encourage and comfort Thine own people in approaching it. May the sight of Thine ordinance affect and impress the thoughtless and the undecided; and may the communion of Thy people awaken in the hearts of the young those purposes and desires which Thou wilt bless, as the first movements of the soul towards joining itself to Thee in a perpetual covenant, never to be forgotten.

Hear us, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## FIRST PRAYER FOR THE MORNING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O THOU Who didst of old time make Thyself known as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, we bless Thee that in these last days Thou hast revealed Thyself as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and hast taught and encouraged us to address Thee as our Father Which art in heaven. Father, we have sinned against Heaven and in Thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called Thy children. Yet Thou hast not cast us off. In that distant land to which our evil heart has carried us, Thou hast beheld us with compassion; in that low estate into which our guilt has sunk us, Thou hast had compassion upon us.

We admire and we adore the wondrous plan by which Thou restorest Thy banished offspring to their Father's family. We rejoice that, as the children were partakers of flesh and blood, so likewise He Who came in Thy name to save, Himself took part of the same, and became in all things like unto His brethren. Blessed Redeemer, Who didst pass by angels to become bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, we praise Thee that Thou didst unite our degraded nature to Thine own spotless Divinity, that in

the nature which offended, Thou mightest make one perfect, everlasting offering for sin. We magnify the boundless depths of Thine unspeakable compassion, which brought Thee so low, that Thou mightest raise us so high. And we adore and magnify Thee, that, now that Thou art risen, and hast ascended to Thy Throne, Thou art not ashamed to call us brethren. In the midst of the throne Thou still retainest the human nature, which, for our sakes, Thou didst assume; and through all Thy glory Thou still exhibitest the humbling bond that unites Thee to us. O Thou Lamb of God that wast slain, Thou art worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing; Thou art worthy, for Thou hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood, and hast made us unto our God kings and priests for ever.

Through the symbols of Thy dying love which are this day to be placed before us, we would behold Thy broken body and Thy shed blood. And when we remember that Thy body was broken and Thy blood shed for us, our hearts would burn within us, and, with the ascending flame, our souls would rise in holy thanksgivings to Him that loved us, and that washed us from our sins in His own blood.

O blessed Saviour, manifest Thyself to us at Thine own table, not darkly, as through a glass, not dimly, as through a vail. Let us see Thy face; let us hear Thy voice. Interpret to us the mysteries of Thine own ordinance. Explain every symbol; give significance to every sign. Accompany with a blessing the

words of Thy servants; and unite our hearts at Thine ordinance to one another and to Thee, in anticipation of that blessed day when earthly Sabbaths, sanctuaries, and days of imperfect communion, shall give place to the endless joys of heaven, and the beatific vision of God.

Let the young, who are this day for the first time to encompass Thy table, be remembered with especial love, as the lambs of Thy flock. Lead them into green pastures; guide them by still waters. Let no dark cloud overshadow them; let no son of mischief rise up to harm them. Under Thy shadow let them sit with great delight; and let Thy fruit be sweet unto their taste.

Visit in compassion the dwellings of those whose hearts are in Thy sanctuary, but who are denied access to Thine ordinances. While they stretch forth their hands to Thee in a dry and parched land, make Thyself known to them as the Lord That formed them, and That will help them.

And while Thou art present with all Thy people, show mercy, we beseech Thee, upon those that are Thine enemies. Put them in remembrance: plead Thy cause with them; and let this be a day when Thou wilt send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion, when Thou wilt rule in the midst of Thine enemies, and when a willing people from among them shall be gathered around Thee in the beauties of holiness.

Assist Thy ministering servants. Let them stand in Thy strength; let them speak in Thy name; and while they feed Thy flock, let their own souls be filled

with the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ, that their mouths may praise Thee with joyful lips.

And now, O Lord, we go forward in Thy strength; let not Thy mercies towards us be restrained. Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of Thy holiness and of Thy glory, and give us cause to bless, to praise, to magnify Thy name this day, through Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

## FIRST PRAYER FOR THE EVENING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O Lord, at the close of this day we desire to come before Thee with the voice of thanksgiving and praise. We thank Thee for what we have this day seen, and tasted, and heard, and handled, of the Word of life. We bless Thee that Jesus Christ hath this day been plainly set forth before us crucified and slain, and that in Him all the blessings of salvation have been brought under our view, and presented to our acceptance.

O may those of us who have this day approached the Saviour's table, find that it hath been no vain thing to wait upon Him in the ways of His own appointment. May the memorials of His dying love minister peace and joy to our souls; may we be sensible, from present and from future experience, that we have enjoyed the presence and received the blessing of the

Master of the Feast; and in the strength of the refreshment imparted to our faith, and hope, and love, may we go on our way to the heavenly world with an enlarged and rejoicing heart.

And do Thou, O Lord, Who alone canst give effect to our purposes and desires to be Thine, accomplish in us the whole good pleasure of Thy goodness. Let not the good seed which hath been sown, be scattered by the winds, or choked by the tares, or scorched by the heat, or snatched away by the enemy. Let not sin regain its dominion over us; but perfect, we entreat Thee, that which concerneth us; and having begun Thy good work, be pleased to carry it forward unto the day of Jesus Christ. May all the effects designed by the holy ordinance in which we have this day participated, be produced by Thy grace in our experience. May our faith be confirmed, our hope enlivened, our love increased, and our purposes of new and better obedience in time to come strengthened and rendered effectual. We cast ourselves, O Lord, upon Thee for guidance, for support, for comfort, and for protection. Thou Who hast covered a table for us this day in the wilderness, and spread over us Thy banner which is love, wilt Thou not continue with us Thy bounty and Thy grace; wilt Thou not cause the stream of Thy merciful goodness to accompany us all the days of our life; and wilt Thou not permit us at last to dwell with Thee in the house of the Lord for ever?

Nor would we be mindful merely of ourselves. We commend to Thee all our fellow-Christians, and especially those who have this day united with us in com-

memorating the dying love of our exalted Redeemer. May love to the Saviour bind us together in affection one to another, as members of the same family, partakers of the same nature, and heirs of the same blessedness. May Thy servants who have dispensed to us the word and bread of life, be enriched with all heavenly and spiritual blessings. May their minds be the seat of all those gifts and graces which are needful to the advancement of their holiness, their comfort, and their usefulness. And while they plant and water, may God command a blessing, and appoint an abundant increase.

Look, we entreat Thee, in compassion on those who are destitute of the privileges which we enjoy. Forgive the sin of those who, enjoying outward privileges, despise or abuse them; and let the light of the knowledge of Thy glory, as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ, penetrate every dark place of the earth, and reach conviction to every polluted and benighted mind, causing the distant heathen to cast his idols to the moles and to the bats, and constraining the heathen in a Christian land to look upon Him Whom he hath pierced, and to mourn, to love, and to obey.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, gracious God; and to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## SECOND PRAYER FOR THE MORNING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O THOU Who hast given us Thy Word to be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, Who hast established Thy Sabbath and Thine ordinances as means of grace, and as tokens of Thy favour, enable us this day to wait upon Thee in the exercise of faith and love: may we have grace to serve Thee acceptably; and, in all our services, may we have reason to say, Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

We bless Thee, O Lord, for the great love wherewith Thou hast loved us. We adore, we praise, we magnify Thee, that Thou hast not cast us off as our iniquities have deserved, but that Thou hast had mercy upon us, because Thy mercy endureth for ever. We bless God for Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of the Father, Who came into the world to take away sin for ever, by the sacrifice of Himself.

Nor would we bless Thee merely for this Thine unspeakable gift. We thank Thee for the sacred Supper of our Lord, in which the united love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is exhibited in lively signs, and by affecting memorials. And we humbly pray that our minds may this day be in a suitable frame for approaching Thy table, and partaking of the appointed emblems of our Saviour's sufferings and dying love. Through the memorials presented to our senses, may we perceive the broken

body and the shed blood of our crucified, but now risen and glorified Redeemer. With joy may we partake of the spiritual provision which He hath prepared for the nourishment and comfort of His people; and, with revived faith, may we realize the presence of the Master of the Feast, and feed on that flesh which is meat indeed, and drink of that blood which is drink indeed.

And, O Thou blessed and gracious Saviour, Who didst freely give Thyself for the sin of the world, despise not Thou the sighing of the broken and contrite heart that shall this day breathe forth its desires and its sorrows at Thy table. Excite into lively exercise the languid graces of Thy people. Change a weak faith and a trembling hope into a spirit of holy and happy confidence in the truth of Thy Word and the certainty of Thy promises; and while Thy people thirst for Thee as in a dry and thirsty land, to see Thy power and Thy glory as they have seen Thee in the sanctuary, let their souls be filled as with marrow and fatness, that their mouths may praise Thee with joyful lips.

To Thy mercy and tender compassion we commend those who, by the restraints of Thy Providence, are at this time denied the privilege of access to Thy table. Visit them in their solitary chambers: commune with them from off Thy mercy-seat; send into their hearts a double portion of Thy Holy Spirit; and let each of them experience that it is no vain thing to wait upon Thee, whether in the closet or in the sanctuary, and that while a table is spread for the

great congregation, there is enough and to spare for the meanest and the most solitary, the most deserted and distressed, who belong to our Father's house.

Assist Thy ministering servants in the dispensation of Thy Word and ordinances. While they labour and care for others, may they be remembered as dear children by Thee; and may the bread of life which they distribute to their fellow-men prove to their own souls an abundant source of strength, and comfort, and joy.

Let Thy Church universally prosper and flourish. Abundantly bless the provision of Zion. Fill every hungry soul, and satisfy every longing soul with goodness; and let the voice of rejoicing and salvation be in all the tabernacles of the righteous.

Now unto Him Who hath chosen Zion, and desired it for His habitation, unto God only wise, be all glory and praise, through Jesus Christ, world without end. Amen.

## SECOND PRAYER FOR THE EVENING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O Thou to Whom we owe our means of grace and our opportunities of spiritual improvement, follow, we beseech Thee, with Thine effectual blessing, the exercises in which we have this day been engaged. Forgive the sins and imperfections that have mingled with our attempts to serve Thee; and grant that a sense of Thy goodness, and a remembrance of the

comforts we have enjoyed while waiting upon Thee in Thine ordinances, may attend us during our future course, and may excite us to diligence and stedfastness in Thy service.

We give Thee thanks, gracious God, for the privilege we have this day enjoyed, of partaking of the memorials of the broken body and shed blood of our exalted, though once humbled and suffering Redeemer. May the impression made upon our minds by the solemnities of this day, be deepened and confirmed; may the vows our hearts have conceived and our lips have uttered while encompassing Thine altar, be heard and registered in heaven; and may grace be imparted to us from Him Who heareth prayer, and Who is the God of all grace, that we may be faithful to our engagements, and, through every stage of our future life, may continue stedfast and immoveable, abounding always in the work of the Lord.

When we resume the ordinary duties and employments of life, help us to retain a lively recollection of the objects and truths which have this day been set before us. May we remember that we have enrolled our names among His disciples, and be anxious to justify the good confession which we have thus made before many witnesses.

Nor let us merely remember the obligations under which we have come; may we also remember the promises and grace of Him Whose disciples we are. May the rich provision He has made for His people in the doctrine of His cross, the assurances of His

love, and the influences of His Spirit, be associated in our minds with the services He claims from us. And while for His sake we are willing to do all things and to endure all things, may we look up to Him to be with us always, according to His promise, and to fulfil in us the whole good pleasure of His goodness, even the work of faith with power.

Nor would we confine our views to the present world. Knowing that the end of all things is at hand, we would rejoice and be glad in the prospect of that day, when earthly Sabbaths and earthly solemnities, having fulfilled their design, shall have passed away; and when, with all the ransomed of the Lord, we shall be admitted to the marriage-supper of the Lamb, and be permitted to drink wine new in our Father's kingdom for ever. O may we be looking for and hasting unto the day of God, the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the day of the consummation of our hopes and the perfection of our felicity.

Having the promise of this day, may we be diligent that we may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. Satisfied with the allotments of His Providence, following the guidance of His Word, and rejoicing in the fulness of His grace, may we grow in resemblance to His image, and in meetness for His kingdom.

With ourselves, we would be mindful of all who have this day testified their faith in the Saviour by approaching His table: may their souls be refreshed and gladdened by a sense of His presence, and by the

tokens of His love. Especially may the young experience the protecting, comforting, and restoring care of the Lord their Shepherd. Having renounced the world for the sake of Christ, may they find from experience that they have made a happy exchange, that they have lost nothing, and gained everything.

May the aged, and they who for the last time have this day taken their place at Thy table, be sustained and cheered under the burden of infirmities and years. Looking back to the past, may they remember the days of the right hand of the Most High; and now also that they are old and grey-headed, may they feel assured that Thou, Who hast been their hope hitherto, and their trust from their youth, wilt not cast them off in the time of old age, neither forsake them when their strength faileth.

We commend to Thee, O Lord, those who have this day dispensed to us the word and the bread of life. Be with Thy Church, all who bear office in it, all who are members of it, all who love its peace and seek its welfare. Peace be within its walls, and prosperity within its palaces. For our brethren and companions' sake, we would now say, Peace be within thee!

Now, unto Him Who hath chosen Jacob for Himself, and Israel for His peculiar treasure, to Him Whose glory is the Church, and Whose kingdom shall have no end; unto Him, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God, be all might, majesty, and dominion ascribed, both now and ever, world without end. Amen.

## FOR THE MORNING AFTER A COMMUNION SABBATH.

O LORD, we come before Thee this morning, blessing Thee for the bounties of Thy providence and the privileges of Thy grace. We give Thee thanks for the opportunity we yesterday enjoyed, of seriously and solemnly recalling to our remembrance our unspeakable obligations to Thy redeeming love. O may the great object of faith then exhibited to our view in the memorials of a communion table, dwell habitually in our thoughts; and while pursuing the ordinary tenor of our lives, may we be influenced and governed by a constraining regard to the glory of Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us. Looking up to Him as Head over all things to His Church, may we pursue our way through life, not alarmed by dangers nor depressed by fears, but persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed to His charge, to fulfil all His promises, to supply all our need, and, after employing us in His service on earth, to bring us to Himself, that where He is there we may be also.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for these encouraging views and hopes. Under their influence, may we go on our way rejoicing. May the Lord Whom we serve go with us: may He accompany us by His Spirit, and not only enable us by faith to realize Him as present with us, but vouchsafe to us such displays of His kindness and power, in the state of our feelings and the posture of our circumstances, as shall cause us

with fervent gratitude at every stage of our pilgrimage to acknowledge, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which He had promised us.

With ourselves, we would commend to Thy gracious remembrance all our Christian brethren, and especially those who on this occasion have partaken with us of the memorials of the Saviour's dying love. May the remembrance of the love that has been shown them sink deep into their hearts; and may the privileges they enjoy in connection with the Saviour induce them to abide in Him, and to grow up into Him in all things, fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

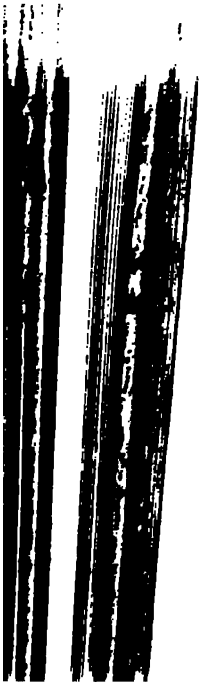
May such of Thy people as are mourning in Zion be directed to Him as the source of comfort. If the cause of sorrow be in their circumstances, lead them to look above a world which passeth away; if in themselves, support them under the burden of infirmity and the pressure of disease; or if sin be the cause, and they have armed the foe that divides them from Thee, show them wherefore it is that Thou contendest with them. Stir up within them a holy resentment against the secret enemies of their peace; lead them to the blood of sprinkling; and with David's spirit, may they turn to David's Lord, crying, 'Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow; make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.'

We thank Thee, gracious God, on behalf of Thy ministering servants. Abundantly and increasingly bless them: grant them more of Thy Holy Spirit;

more of Thy presence while they minister at Thine altar; more of the peace and joy that are the fruit of believing the truths which they declare to others; more of that success in their labours which shall strengthen their hands, and encourage their hearts, and be received by themselves as the best answer to their prayers, and the fullest compensation for their anxieties and toils.

Abundantly bless the provision of Zion; satisfy her poor with bread. Clothe her priests also with salvation, and let her saints shout aloud for joy.

Now, blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.



# Occasional Prayers.

## THANKSGIVING.

I.

O Thou Who art the Lord our God, Who hast remembered Thy covenant for ever, we give Thee thanks for all the goodness we have experienced since we came into this world.

Help us, we beseech Thee, to look upon our temporal lot with gratitude, and to use its blessings without abusing them. May we remember, with a thankful sense of Thy condescension and love, that it is He Who ruleth among the armies of heaven, Who chooseth out for us the lot of our inheritance. While receiving good (as at this time) at the hand of God, may the thought of Him Who bestows it double the value of the blessing; and when called to endure chastening, may the same thought arm us with patience, and satisfy us of the wisdom and goodness of the dispensations by which we are tried.

We lament, O Lord, that, in the enjoyment of tem-

poral comforts, we should be so liable to forget Thee. But we pray for a better spirit than our own, a spirit of wisdom to discern Thee in all Thy ways toward us, and a spirit of gratitude and love to receive all Thy gifts as from Thy hand, and to employ them in Thy service. Teach us habitually to remember all the way by which we have been led; to consider the necessity for the trials by which we have been exercised; to trace the connection between evil in our circumstances and good in our character; to weigh the mercies we have enjoyed, against the sorrows we have experienced; and, from a review of the past in all its relations and consequences, daily to deduce new occasions for celebrating the praises of Him Who hath dealt with us as a Father, and in the midst of wrath remembered mercy.

And while thus, O Lord, we bear in mind Thy temporal goodness, let us not be forgetful of our obligations to Thy grace. Thanks be unto God for the purpose and plan of redeeming love; and thanks be unto God for all the methods by which that love hath been displayed. We thank Thee that we have heard the voice of Divine mercy addressed to us through Thy Son; and that, notwithstanding our reluctance to listen, and our indifference to what we have heard, the offers of Thy grace are still made to us.

O, while we bless Thee for the riches of Thy grace, may we be anxious to partake of them. May we have reason to bless Thee, not only for mercies offered, but for mercies accepted, experienced, and enjoyed. And we would give Thee thanks, gracious God, for

any disposition Thou hast given us thus to prize and thus to improve Thy benefits. All our goodness is Thine own gift. O confirm, increase, and perfect it; and give us reason continually to acknowledge, that He Which hath begun a good work is performing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Nor would we confine our views, O Lord, to personal blessings. Connected as we are by many ties with our fellow-men, and dependent on them for much of our happiness and improvement, we would regard Thy goodness to them as goodness to ourselves. We bless Thee for it; and we humbly pray that it may be increased and multiplied exceedingly. Hasten the time when Thy Spirit shall be poured upon all flesh; when society shall be purified from the disorders that defile and degrade it; when men everywhere shall be of one heart and of one mind; and when God shall be glorified from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Now, unto Him Who hath given us endless cause of thanksgiving and praise, unto Him be glory through Jesus Christ, world without end. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING.

### II.

O Lord, Thou art the ever-blessed God, blessed in Thyself, and the source of blessing to all Thy creatures. From Thy glorious throne Thou distributest being and happiness to everything that lives.

But, chiefly, O Lord, hast Thou blessed us, who are not only the work of Thy hands, but the sheep of Thy pasture. Thou hast distinguished us among Thy creatures, by setting the seal of Thine image upon our souls, and placing us at the head of Thy lower works. Thou hast given us understanding, and reason, and conscience, and associated us with angels in our knowledge of Thy will, and in our capacity for showing forth Thy praise. Nor hast Thou abandoned us, though the crown has fallen from our heads. Thou hast had compassion upon us in our low and fallen state. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us in Him with all heavenly and spiritual blessings, and, by a pledge more impressive than promises, hath assured us, that He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up to the death for us, will with Him also freely give us all things. We thank Thee for the manifold mercies which have flowed to us in the sacred channel of the Saviour's blood, for the light of the glorious Gospel, the promise of the Spirit, the means of grace, the ordinances of religion, and the good hope of everlasting life.

More especially, we bless Thee for all the testimonies of Thy goodness which we ourselves have experienced. Teach us to connect all Thy goodness with the love Thou hast shown us in Christ Jesus; and however distant the streams, may we trace them all up to everlasting mercy, as their fountain and their spring. O may we regard all the bounties of Providence, all its gracious indications and interpo-

sitions, all its familiar displays of liberality, forbearance, and watchful care, all the blessings for which, at any time, we have cause to give thanks, as affecting remembrancers of better blessings and richer obligations. May our hearts be filled at this time with gratitude, even to overflowing, when we lift our thoughts above the gifts, for which we thank Thee, to Thyself, the gracious Giver, and realize Thee as not only the Author of our enjoyments, and the Reliever of our wants, but as the infinite Giver of an infinite gift, the gift of Thine only begotten Son, that we might not perish, but have everlasting life. O may we feel that mercies become more sweet, when taken from a Father's hand, and received with the stamp of an elder Brother's love; that gratitude becomes more warm, and obedience more easy, when the source from which our blessings flow, is seen to be an ocean which our minds cannot measure, nor the extremest depth of our necessities exhaust.

Filled with this sense and view of Thy goodness, we now present to Thee the offering of our gratitude. Thou hast dealt bountifully with us. Accept our thanksgivings, quicken our thankfulness, and bring our sense of obligation nearer the standard of Thy great, and manifold, and undeserved benefits. And that our gratitude may not be the mere emotion of the moment, but may have its seat in our heart, and may show forth itself in our life, add to all Thine other mercies the gift of Thy Holy Spirit; which thing, and every other mercy, we beg for the sake and worthiness of Thy dear Son, our Saviour, to Whom,

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory and thanksgiving, world without end. Amen.

## IN AFFLICTION.

O Lord, Thou knowest our frame. Who remembers that we are dust. Thou has been pleased to lay Thy hand upon us and to teach us by painful experience how precious is every earthly blessing. What are we that we should repine under any of Thy dispensations? Thou art our Father, and we are the work of Thy hands: we are the clay, and Thou art the potter. With humility and meekness we would kiss the rod which Thou has laid upon us. Thou has raised us not in judgment to destroy, but in mercy to chasten and correct. Our affliction is infinitely less than our iniquities have deserved. And, in the midst of wrath, Thou remembereest mercy; for how many are the blessings by which we are still surrounded, and by how many affecting tokens art Thou assuring us, that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to the consolations of Thy blessed Word, that we may believe that we are now in Thy hands for good. We feel how much we need correction; but we also feel how much we need the teaching and support of Thy Holy Spirit, to subdue the rising murmurs of our rebellious will, and to hush our minds into a holy calm of meek and child-like acquiescence in the plan of Thine all-wise

Providence. We know that Thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted us. But let Thy merciful kindness also be for our comfort, and let Thy tender mercies come unto us, that we may live.

Let not our faith fail under our trials. Blessed God, most gracious Heavenly Father, in Thy good time relieve us from the burden of our afflictions. Let not Thy hand be always heavy upon us. Rebuke us not in Thy wrath, chasten us not in Thy hot displeasure. When Thou hast accomplished Thy gracious purposes in our correction, stay the vehemence of the flame; say to the refining fire, 'It is enough;' stretch forth Thy hand, and bring us forth from the furnace as gold and silver purified.

But, O Lord, Thy will be done. We know not what is good for us; but Thou knowest. In Thy hands we are; and in Thy hands we would leave ourselves. Let our trials cease, or let them be prolonged, as to Thee seemeth right and meet. Only let them be sanctified; let their effect be to take away sin, to withdraw our hearts from a vain and deceitful world, and to fix our faith and our affections upon things above; that Thou mayest be glorified, and the Gospel of Thy grace recommended and adorned, by our patience and hope: which things we beg for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whom we bless Thee, and to Whom, with Thyself and the Holy Spirit, One God, be glory for ever. Amen.

## IN SICKNESS.

O Lord, our compassionate Heavenly Father, Thou afflictest not willingly, nor grievest the children of men. Thou hast said, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee;" we, therefore, Thine afflicted servants, desire in this the day of our calamity, to call upon Thy name, and to take refuge in Thy promises. Grant us grace, we entreat Thee, meekly and patiently to bear the trials with which Thou hast seen it good to visit us. Help us to view them as the appointments of an all-wise and infinitely gracious God; as the chastisements of a Heavenly Father's love; and as necessary to our education, as members of the divine family, and as heirs of a heavenly kingdom.

Grant us support under our trials. O Thou compassionate Redeemer, our merciful and faithful High Priest, Who art touched with the feeling of Thy people's infirmities, fail us not, neither forsake us, in this the time of our weakness and suffering. Thou Thyself didst suffer, being tempted; grant us Thy presence, who are now treading in the path in which, for our sakes, Thou didst once condescend to walk. Grant us relief from trouble, if it please Thee, and ultimate deliverance from it. But, above all things, grant us the light of Thy countenance under it, a sense of Thy love, a staid and comfortable persuasion of Thy gracious designs, while we are tossed by pain, or burdened by fear, or consumed by weariness and

watching. Our sins are brought to our remembrance in this night of our affliction; but Thou didst die for sin, Thou didst drink even to the dregs the bitter cup of its deserts. Let us not be dismayed by suffering, since Thou hast taken away its sting; let us not tremble even at death, since Thou, by dying, hast stript it of its terrors.

Thou ever livest to make intercession for Thy people. Thou art at the right hand of God, with all power at Thy command for their relief and support. Thou art ever present with them in all their varieties of trial and suffering. Thou knowest their pain; Thou seest their tears; Thou hearest their groans; Thou readest their inmost thoughts, and interpretest their broken prayers. Thou hast said that Thou wilt regard the prayer of the destitute, and wilt not despise their prayer. O blessed Saviour, Thou art afflicted in all our afflictions: we cast ourselves on Thy sympathy; we rely on Thy wisdom; we lean on Thy power. We would not take our lot out of Thy hands; we would not wish removed that which Thou mayest deem it right to continue; we would not desire to escape from that which Thy wisdom and love may judge it good and necessary that we should bear. But sustain us, we beseech Thee, under our burden: let us not have cause to say, 'Why castest Thou off our souls? why hidest Thou Thy face from us?' Let not our faith, let not our patience fail.

Thou, O Lord, bringest good out of evil; Thou appointest trial as the correction of sin. O may the fruit of our afflictions be the taking away of sin: may

they be attended, may they be followed, by a more plenteous communication of Thy Holy Spirit. If it be Thy will that we should yet be restored to health and strength, may it be manifest to all, that we have been taught much in the school in which Thou art at present training us. May we even now feel the gracious influence of sanctified affliction; and be encouraged to bear what yet remains of our trials, by a sensible growth in all the graces and virtues of the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness.

These things we beg, O our God and merciful Redeemer, not trusting to our own worthiness, or importunity, or tears, or great necessity, but to that mercy which hath been made sure to sinners by the blood of the Lamb, to Whom be glory for ever. Amen.

## ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

### I.

O Lord, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, slow to anger, and of great goodness, what shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits?

By painful experience, O Lord, Thou hast taught us that our strength is but weakness, and that vain is the help of man. May we, who have been made to feel how frail we are, bear about with us the solemn conviction, that, in the midst of life, we are in death; that in health and strength we walk on the brink of a

precipice, and that in a moment our foot may slip, and our portion be no more for ever in anything under the sun.

Thou hast taught us by our recovery, that help cometh from Thee alone, that Thou hast but to speak the word, and disease and death shall be arrested in their course. Henceforward, let our faith and hope be more exclusively placed in Thee. Thou art all-sufficient for our happiness: Thy presence can cheer our solitude, lighten our darkness, sustain our weakness, and diffuse through our souls a peace and a joy which the loss of health and the fear of death cannot destroy. We would therefore cleave to Thee as our portion in the land of the living, and return unto Thee as our rest, seeing that Thou hast dealt so bountifully with us.

By means of affliction, Thou hast taught us the evil of sin. Thou hast reminded us, that death hath passed upon all men, because all have sinned; and Thou hast spoken to our consciences, and asked us, what fruit can we hope to have in these things, the end of which is death? O Lord, we are slow of heart to receive this lesson; but do Thou impress it on our hearts, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit. From this time forward, may fear of sin, may sorrow for sin, may aversion to sin, become fixed habits of our mind; and may we be incapable of deliberately yielding to its temptations, after having been so impressively made to feel how unsubstantial are its pleasures, and how bitter and fatal are its fruits.

And that these ends may be fully attained, may the

Gospel of Thy grace, which Thou hast given for the life of man; which conveys balm to the wounded conscience, purity to the polluted affections, hope to the desponding heart; which is the trembling sinner's stay, his guide in darkness, his song in death; O may this Gospel of the grace of God, sure in promise, rich in comfort, the unspeakable gift of infinite mercy, the precious fruit of dying love, the pledge of the Saviour's living power, the channel of the Holy Spirit's choicest blessings, henceforward be unspeakably dear to our hearts. May we love it for the comfort it has yielded, when nothing else had power to comfort us; and may we be more than ever anxious to imbibe its living spirit, and to walk under the influence of its sanctifying lessons, that, when days of darkness come, we may find it, as in days past, an anchor of hope, a tree of life, a fountain unsealed, whose waters fail not.

Blessed God, we desire to live wholly unto Thee. By a new tie Thou hast made us Thine. Whom can we love, whom can we serve, but Thee, Who art the God of our life, the length of our days; Who hast delivered, and Who doth deliver? Accept our gratitude, confirm our purposes, and pardon the coldness of our thanksgivings, and the irresolution of our hearts, for the sake of Thy dear Son, our only Lord and Saviour; to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

## ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

### II.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, Who hast healed our diseases, and redeemed our life from destruction, and Who now crownest us with loving-kindnesses and tender mercies, accept, we beseech Thee, the gratitude of our hearts, and the thanksgiving of our lips, for all Thy goodness.

Thou hast been pleased to deal with us as a Father Who pitieth His children; Thou hast chastened us for our profit; Thou hast corrected, but not destroyed us. In the school of affliction Thou hast been training us in the knowledge of ourselves, and in the obedience of Thy law; discovering to us our frailty, that we might lean on Thy strength; showing us the vanity of the world, that we might live above it; bringing sin to our remembrance, that we might sincerely hate and anxiously avoid it; and revealing to us the all-sufficiency of Thy grace, and the fulness that is in Christ Jesus, that we might abandon every portion but the hope that is set before us in the Gospel.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the measure of our afflictions, and for the alleviations and supports which we experienced under them. Thou hast not chastened us in Thine anger, nor rebuked us in Thy hot displeasure. Enable us to look back with gratitude on the consolations of Thy Word in the season of our affliction. May its truths, its promises, its precepts,

acquire a double value in our eyes, from the power we have felt it to possess of imparting encouragement and support, when all other sources of comfort were found empty and insufficient.

We acknowledge, and we would feel, Thy goodness in restoring us to health. Thou, O Lord, hast done it. Thou hast given efficacy to means, and wisdom to those by whom they were administered. We would raise our eyes above the instrument, to the gracious hand that directed and employed it; and we would regard every day and every hour of our prolonged life as a new bond to Thy service, and a new incitement to diligence and fidelity in the discharge of our obligations. We are not our own: from the moment we entered life we were Thy servants, bound to love, reverence, and obey Thee; but now, with a deeper and more grateful sense of obligation and responsibility, we would say, 'O Lord, we are Thy servants; truly we are Thy servants, for Thou hast loosed our bonds.'

Impart sincerity, O Lord, to our purposes, warmth to our gratitude, and stedfastness to our endeavours after obedience. Our hearts are still vain and froward, our wills stubborn and rebellious, our convictions slight and superficial, our purposes faltering and unsteady, our minds open to the insinuations and flatteries of the world. Be pleased, O Thou Who knowest our weakness and our folly, to enforce the lessons of affliction by the effectual teaching of Thy Holy Spirit. With restored health, give us a healthier frame of mind. In returning to the world, let us not return to its vanities and follies. O let us never forget

the affecting experience, the humbling convictions, the solemn vows, of our recent season of suffering and danger.

When days of darkness return,—for they will return,—may we not be as watchmen taken by surprise. May our thoughts be familiar with an invisible and eternal world; and may the time of health and strength be diligently improved, with a view to the arrival of that night, which, however long delayed, must at last overtake us. Hear us, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and to Thy mercy we commend ourselves, soul, body, and spirit, through Jesus Christ, our living Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

## ON THE DEATH OF FRIENDS.

O Lord, Thou alone endurest for ever. All things around us wax old, and pass away; but Thou art for ever the same, and Thy years have no end.

Humble us, we beseech Thee, under Thy mighty hand. Thou hast been pleased, at this time, to remind us of the frailty of our frame, and of the looseness of the tie that unites us to the objects of our earthly affection.

Thou hast not forbidden us to feel, when our hearts are wounded by the stroke of Thine hand. Thou knowest our frame; thou rememberest that we are but dust. Calm, we entreat Thee, the agitation of our feelings; restrain the excess of our grief; let us not mourn like them that have no knowledge and

no hope. The stroke is Thine: Thou hast done it; and art not Thou our Father, and are not Thy ways perfect?

Let not our eye rest merely on the darkness of the grave: let us look beyond it, to that bright world where the Saviour for ever lives and reigns; to that glorious house of many mansions, where He prepares a place, and where He waits for His people.

Blessed be God, that death is no perpetual sleep. Blessed be God, that, as Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that sleep in Jesus shall God bring with Him. May we comfort one another, and be ourselves comforted, by remembering that the friends whom we have lost are not lost for ever; that precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints; that Thine eye is fixed upon their humbled dust, and that soon Thou wilt call and they shall answer, and that Thou wilt have a desire unto the work of Thine hands.

Instead of mourning our loss, may we give thanks for our prospects. May our hearts be knit by new ties to the invisible world, in which so many whom we love have found a home. May our desires be raised to heaven, where friendships are perpetual, and where are fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore, in the presence of God and of the Lamb.

And, O Lord, seeing that Thou wilt bring us also to death, and to the house appointed for all living, may grace be given us, that we may live as dying men. O let not the night of death come upon us by surprise. Sanctify the present dispensation of Thy

Providence, as the means of awakening us from spiritual slumber. While it is called to day, may Thy Spirit prepare us for the impending shadows of the night. May the solemn intimations of the Bridegroom's coming strike upon our dull and sluggish apprehensions; that, when He cometh, we may be ready to go forth to meet Him, having lamps in our hands, and oil in our lamps, not dreading His frown, but exulting in the signs of His arrival, saying, with Thy Church of old, 'Yea, in the way of Thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for Thee: the desire of our soul is to Thy name, and to the remembrance of Thee. Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is our God, we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'

Now, unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, One God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

## FOR A FAMILY DETAINED FROM PUBLIC WORSHIP.

### I.

PRAISE waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion; and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. But we also bless Thee that Thou hast promised to create upon every dwelling-place of Mount Zion, as well as upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night, and upon all the glory to establish a defence. While Thou art pleased this day

to be in the midst of the congregations of Thy saints, draw near also in compassion to us who are necessarily absent from Thy courts, and cause us to experience the blessedness of the people whose God is the Lord.

We look back with gratitude to past public opportunities of improvement, and beseech Thee to satisfy us early in like manner with Thy mercy, that our souls may again rejoice and be glad in Thee. We also humbly entreat Thy presence at this time, to sanctify to us the exercises in which we shall engage, to bless to us the reading of Thy holy Word, to open our understandings to receive and apply the truths founded upon it to which our attention may be directed, to lead our minds into suitable trains of meditation and reflection, and to compensate to us by a double portion of Thy Spirit, for the external privileges of which for the present we are deprived.

With sorrow, O Lord, we remember the comparative indifference with which we may formerly have regarded the privileges of Thy house, and the small improvement we have made of them. But we humbly pray that the past may be forgiven, and that we may be taught by present privations to attach a higher value to ordinances of Thine own appointment, and to derive a larger measure of advantage from them in days which are to come. Let not our sins draw down upon us that heaviest of all calamities, a famine of the Word of the Lord. Though we deserve nothing at Thy hand but judgment, let the greatness of Thy mercy cause Thee to accompany the means with the influences of Thy grace; and whilst Thou givest us

from day to day our daily bread, feed us also with the hidden manna, the bread of life that came down from heaven.

While we thus pray for ourselves, we would also bear on our minds the necessities of Thy Church and people. Be this day in the midst of every assembly of Thy genuine worshippers. Release them from the bondage of fear, of enmity, and of constraint. May they find that Thy yoke is easy, and that Thy burden is light, that Thy worship is privilege, and Thy service perfect freedom. While they raise their voices in Thy praise, may their hearts ascend to Thy throne. While they pour out their hearts, and make known their wants unto Thee, inspire them with confidence in Thy promises, and hope in Thy mercy. And while they hearken to the instructions of Thy holy Word, let the entrance of Thy Word give light; yea, give them understanding, that they may keep Thy law.

Bless, we pray Thee, the ministrations of Thy servants. May they be men of God, and ensamples to the flock in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Diffuse among all classes of men a greater acquaintance with Thy Word, and a more sincere and zealous desire to experience its power and to advance its interests. We lament that so large a portion of the human race are still in bondage to ignorance, to superstition, to idolatry. But we pray that the reign of error may be speedily brought to a perpetual end. We rejoice in the symptoms of this glorious consum-

mation: may these increase, and extend, and multiply, till the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto Thee, till the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto Thee, till they shall bring gold and incense, and shall show forth the praises of the Lord.

In our own land may the progress of pure and undefiled religion advance. O Lord, Thou hast been favourable to our beloved land. Let the tokens of Thy merciful regard continue to distinguish her. Be Thou, as in times past, the glory of her strength; and in Thy favour let her horn be exalted. On the head of our Queen pour down Thy best blessings. May her reign be a reign of peace and righteousness; and may all classes of the community grow in wisdom and knowledge, and in the fear of the Lord.

And now, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to look in compassion upon all who, like ourselves, are this day prevented from assembling in the courts of Thy house. Let them not feel Thy day to be a burden, nor Thy service a weariness. Debarred from Thy house, may they seek Thy face, and rejoice in the thought that Thou art not the inhabitant of temples made by hands. If disturbed by anxious thoughts, or suffering from bodily disease, or watching by the side of those who are stretched on beds of pain and languishing; if oppressed by sorrow, agitated by fear, or harassed by temptation, O look mercifully upon them; and while their cry ascends to Thy throne, send down Thy Holy Spirit to bind up their broken hearts, and to pour the oil of gladness into their wounded spirits.

Be with us, O Lord, as we are now to be engaged. Compose our minds, excite our attention, enlighten our understanding, affect and impress our hearts; and let the means of spiritual improvement we possess be gratefully prized and suitably employed, and be accompanied with an effectual blessing, through Jesus Christ. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, be everlasting praises. Amen.

## FOR PERSONS DETAINED FROM PUBLIC WORSHIP.

### II.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, Whom the praises of heaven cannot exalt, nor the services of all creation enrich, we bless Thee that Thou art ever nigh unto them that art of a broken heart, and that Thou savest such as be of a contrite spirit. While Thou lovest the gates of Zion, and while Thy way is in the sanctuary, we rejoice that the heart of the people is Thy temple, and that Thou regardest the prayers of the destitute, and hast promised that Thou wilt not despise their prayer.

Invited and encouraged by Thy Word, we Thy servants, whom Thy Providence detains from the assembly of Thy saints, would now draw near to the footstool of Thy throne, and adore the uncreated Majesty of heaven and earth, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We bless Thee for the discovery which Thou hast made of Thy character as the God of grace, for the

light which Thou hast cast upon Thy purposes with sinners, for the gift of Thine only begotten Son for their salvation, for the offer which Thou hast made of Him to all mankind, for the descent and promise of the Spirit, and for all the impressive proofs which in every age have attested Thy power and presence in Thine ordinances, and by which Thou hast proclaimed, that the tabernacle of God is with men, that He dwells with them, that He makes them His people, and is to them their God.

And, while thus we bless Thee for Thy goodness, we humbly pray that we ourselves may richly partake of it.

We thank Thee that we have access at all times to Thy Word, and that now, in our retirement, its pages are open to our perusal.

Bring back, we entreat Thee, on this day of absence from ordinances, the impressions of former days, when we sat under the ministrations of Thy servants, and heard from their lips the things that belong to our peace. Though detained from the habitation of Thy house, and from the place where Thine honour dwelleth, gather not our soul with sinners, nor our life with wicked men. Let Thy presence supply to us the loss of outward privileges. Let Thy grace overflow its ordinary channels; and let us know from experience, that while Thou lovest the gates of Zion, none of the dwellings of Jacob are hidden from Thy view. May former opportunities be remembered as tokens for good. May the lessons of former Sabbaths revive in our memories, and distil the dew of a heavenly bless-

ing on our souls. Let the truths of Thy Word, which we can still read, and on which we are at all times permitted to meditate, be precious to our hearts; and let the throne of Thy grace, at which, under all circumstances, we can make known our wants, be felt to be the common centre at which Thy people, however divided, meet; however solitary, cease to be alone; however poor and helpless, guilty and miserable, are secure of obtaining mercy, and finding grace to help in time of need.

To thy compassion we commend all who, like ourselves, are detained from the courts of Thy house. While Thy people in their assemblies fill Thy courts with the melody of their united thanksgiving and praise, O let not the feeble accents of wasted strength, the plaintive petition of the mourner in Zion, the groaning of the prisoner, the unechoed prayer of the stranger in a foreign land, the whispered supplication of the watcher in the chamber of sickness, the fainting sigh of the sufferer on the bed of death, be lost on Thine ear.

Be with the whole family of the faithful. In all their tabernacles may there be the voice of rejoicing and salvation; in all their assemblies, the spirit of union and of prayer; in all their hearts, the testimony of a good conscience, and the comfort of the Holy Ghost. Excite in their bosoms a more lively interest in the progress and prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom; and inspire them with wisdom to devise, and energy and zeal to prosecute, those plans by which Thine ancient people shall be restored, and the fulness of the Gentiles shall be brought in.

We lament that blindness in part has happened to Israel; but we rejoice that there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, Who shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. And we look forward with triumph to the time when Thy purposes with the heathen shall likewise be fulfilled, and Jew and Gentile shall be united in one body, having one Spirit, even as they are called in one hope of their calling. We thank Thee for the approaching brightness of this glorious day. Hasten the fulness of its coming; and may we and all Thy people on whom its light already shines, give Thee no rest until the day dawn and the day-star arise on all the habitations of man.

Hear us, we entreat Thee, O Lord. Be in the midst of us, to bless and to do us good; and let the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us, and with all the people of God, both now and for evermore. Amen.

## PRAYER BEFORE COMMENCING INSTRUCTION IN A SABBATH SCHOOL.

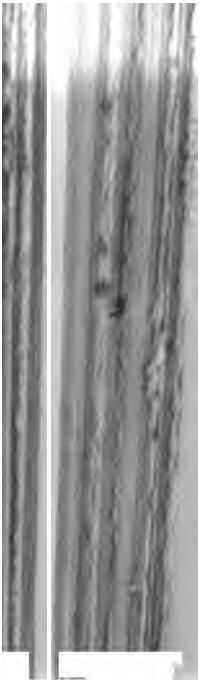
O Lord, our Heavenly Father, Who knowest what things we need before we ask them, and Who art ever more ready to give than we are to pray, enable us to draw near to Thee with true hearts, in the name of our great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, Who laid down His life for our sins, but Who hath now gone into heaven, there to appear in the presence

of God for us. Humble us under a deep sense of our unworthiness as sinful creatures, who, in thought, in word, and in deed, have offended against Thy heavenly majesty. Show us that we can only be pardoned and saved by Jesus Christ, and make us willing to be saved by Him.

Teach us to love Him Who hath loved us, and done such great things for us, and Who, notwithstanding all our unworthiness, is willing to receive every one of us, and to be our friend and elder brother, in time, and through eternity. O may we be truly willing to be His, to give up our hearts to the teaching and grace of His Spirit, and to be led by Him as His little flock, whithersoever it may be His will to guide us. May we fear to offend Him. May every action, every word, every thought, appear exceeding sinful, by which His name will be dishonoured, and His Spirit grieved. May His word be our study, His Sabbath our delight, His house our resort, His people our friends. May we reverence His name, obey His laws, and seek, by our example, to induce others to join us in loving, fearing, and serving Him.

And, O Lord, do Thou, Who knowest the weakness and the sinfulness of our hearts, put all these things into our mind, and keep them there, that we may enter on Thy service with sincerity, and adhere to it with stedfastness as long as we live.

Bless, we pray Thee, the work in which we are about to engage. May these children be among the number of the little ones whom the Saviour receives into His arms and blesses as His own. May their



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Encourage the instructors of youth to perseverance and to increased exertion, by many examples of the power of Thy grace among the objects of their labours. Raise up many to enter into their plans, and to aid them by their countenance, their substance, and their prayers. May a Christian and liberal spirit be more generally diffused among all who profess to love our Lord Jesus Christ, and to care for the prosperity of His kingdom. May every believer become a missionary in His own family, and within the sphere of His own neighbourhood; and may there be many, who, raising their views above the circle of kindred and country, shall burn with an unquenchable desire to bear the name of Jesus before Gentiles and kings, and the long lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Hear us, O Lord, we entreat Thee. Pardon the sins which we have committed this day, and since we entered this place. Take charge of us during this night. Bless all who are dear to us; and accept of them and of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## FOR THE MORNING OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

O Lord, Thou art the ever-blessed and eternal Jehovah, Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Whose dominion endureth throughout all genera-

tions. We bless Thee for all Thy past goodness. Thou hast preserved us through the changes and perils of the past year, shielding us from the terror by night, and from the arrow that flieth by day, multiplying our mercies with our moments, and making every morning and every evening an affecting memorial of untiring and unslumbering love. Thou hast brought us to the commencement of a new year, awaked us to the light of this its first day, renewed our possession of many mercies and advantages, and called on us to review the past, and to anticipate the future, with gratitude and hope.

We acknowledge Thy goodness, O Lord; with our whole heart we would praise Thee; while we have being we would serve Thee. To Thee we would dedicate the life Thou hast prolonged, the body Thou hast sustained, the soul Thou hast redeemed. May the year on which we have entered witness the decision and sincerity of our purpose of obedience, and be a memorable date in the spiritual history of every one of us. If any of us have hitherto been living without Thee, falsely imagining that a life of godliness is a life of constraint and gloom, dispel the treacherous and criminal delusion by which Satan would allure the soul to destruction. Show us that, without Thee, life is but a dream, and pleasure but the beginning of endless pain; and lead us, with humbled hearts and altered views, to the footstool of Thy mercy, the cross of Thy Son, that we may find rest to our souls.

Quicken every one of us to diligence in Thy service. If Thou hast broken our chain, and brought

our feet out of prison, and shown us the misery and deceitfulness of sin, and the power and grace of God our Saviour, deepen and extend our views of obligation, and let the year on which we have entered be signally marked by our abounding labours in the work of the Lord. O may we think more frequently and solemnly of the eye that is ever upon us, and of the judgment-seat before which we must so soon appear. May the shortness of time, the importance of eternity, the worth of our souls, the magnitude of the work given us to do, and the melancholy and irretrievable consequences of neglect or failure where all is at stake, sink down into our thoughts, and, with irresistible power, stir up our slumbering minds to an anxious improvement of our opportunities and privileges. Excite each of us, in a degree to which we may hitherto have been strangers, to ask himself, 'Whose service have I entered, whose glory am I seeking; what account shall I render unto God for what I am doing; shall I be found on the right hand of the Judge on the great day of His appearing, or shall I perish under the sentence of the unprofitable servant, who knew his Master's will, but did it not?'

Keep alive, O Lord, upon the thoughts of the imaginations of our hearts, these solemn inquiries; and forasmuch as no man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself, whether we live, may we live unto the Lord; whether we die, may we die unto the Lord; whether we live or die, may we be the Lord's. May life to us be the preparation for immortality, the pathway to glory, the threshold of heaven: when its

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and eternal rest. Help us, with a deep sense of Thy past goodness, to review the year which is about to close. Thine eyes have been upon us, and Thy hand around us, from the beginning of the year, even unto the end of the year. How watchful has been the care, how liberal the bounty, how unwearied the forbearance of Thy Providence. Of how many, who were in life and health like ourselves, at the beginning of the year, may it now be said, 'Where are they?' Thou hast turned their health into sickness, and consumed their strength, by the stroke of Thy hand. But we, O Lord, are among the living to praise Thee; and the dangers we have escaped, and the changes we have witnessed, have only more impressively proclaimed the goodness and mercy which Thou hast made to follow us.

Our souls would magnify the Lord. With a deep and heartfelt sense of unmerited obligation, we would look forward to the future, and renew our covenant with Thee. O do Thou accept the surrender which we now make of our soul and body; and as Thou alone canst give stedfastness to our purposes, and effect to our endeavours, be pleased to affix the efficacious seal of Thy blessing to our covenant, and to strengthen us with all might, by Thy Spirit, in the inner man, that the life we henceforward live in the flesh, may be wholly unto Thee, in the faith and obedience of the Gospel of Thy Son.

We know not how long our time on earth may be. Habituate our thoughts to the prospect of our dying hour; and as we know not the day, neither the hour,

when the Son of Man cometh, may we give all diligence to prepare for the solemnities of His arrival. With a serious eye may we look on all the objects from which we are so soon to part, and on all the connections which are so soon to be dissolved. May our chief anxiety be to redeem lost time, to recover past opportunities, to improve present privileges, and to stand perfect and complete in that great day when the cry shall be heard, 'Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.'

O Lord, how foolish are our hearts, how hard to impress them with the reality of that which is most certain, with the nearness of that which is impending, with the importance of that which is most affecting and durable. But we cast ourselves on Thee, to be taught the lesson of saving and heavenly wisdom; to be dispossessed of the folly of imagining that here we have any continuing city; to be shaken from the security of self-righteous hope; to be roused to the magnitude, the urgency, the eternal and unspeakable interest of the question, 'What must we do to be saved?' and to be directed to Him, of Whom it is written, 'Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved.' Lead us, O Lord to the rock of ages; to the fountain of the river of the waters of life; to the tree which beareth all manner of fruits, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. Unite us to Him by a true, reposing, receiving, and productive faith. And united to Him, may we be raised above the commotions of time, the vicissitudes

of earthly fortune, the fears of change, the terrors of death; and be able to contemplate, with calm and stedfast hope, the approaching end of all things, when the heavens shall pass away, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burnt up, assured that, when those things shall be dissolved, we shall inhabit a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

To Thy mercy, O Lord, we commend ourselves this night. With the closing year, may our indifference, our worldly-mindedness, our folly, also close; and may the year which is about to commence, be to us the beginning of a new life, to be spent in Thy fear, and consummated in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour. Amen and Amen.

# Short Prayers,

To be used along with the Ordinary Morning and Evening Services, as occasion may require.

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## FOR FAVOURABLE WEATHER.

O Lord, Who hast promised that, while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease, fulfil in our behalf this Thy promise. Curse not our land with barrenness because of our sins; but grant us such weather as to Thee may seem best for the labours of the field, that the hope which Thy promise has inspired, and Thy past bounty and forbearance have sustained, may not fall to the ground, but that there may be plenty in our land, and that the poor of the people may praise Thy name. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST.

O Lord, the eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. All things come of Thee; and in Thee we live and move, and

have our being. Thou hast been pleased to cause Thy sun to shine and Thy rain to fall, so that the year is now crowned with Thy goodness. To the blessing of plenty, add the higher blessing of a grateful, liberal, and obedient heart. And as man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word which hath proceeded from Thee, raise our affections to that bread of God which came down from heaven, of which alone if we eat, we shall live for ever. Amen.

## IN TIME OF PEACE.

O THOU, Who rulest among men, and hast all hearts in Thy hands, give peace in our time, we beseech Thee. Continue the blessing, and make us thankful for it; subdue the passions and remove the causes that lead to war. Thou hast made all nations of one blood, and called us all to a glorious hope through Jesus Christ. May we, so made and so called, learn to live as brethren, seeking those things that make for peace, and walking in love, as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us, to the glory of Thy name in Him. Amen

## IN TIME OF WAR.

O THOU, Who rulest the passions of men, and stillest the tumults of the people, Who art the God of peace and lover of concord, look in compassion upon us

who are involved in the calamities of war. Restrain the violence of our enemies. Restore to us the blessing of peace, which we may so often have abused, and so little esteemed. Keep far from our borders the feet of the invader; mitigate the horrors of battle to those who are called to hazard their lives on the high places of the field; have pity on the wounded, the captive, and the prisoner; and bring good out of this great evil, that the wrath of man may praise Thee, and the nations know that Thou, Whose name alone is holy, art the Most High over all the earth. Amen.

## IN TIME OF PESTILENCE.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, the Lord and Giver of life, we are wholly in Thy hands. When with rebukes Thou chastenest man for iniquity, Thou makest his beauty to consume as a moth: Thou carriest him away as with a flood.

What time we are afraid, we will trust in Thee. Thou rememberest that we are dust, a wind that passeth and returneth not again. In this day of our calamity, when so many whom we know, and some whom we love, are struck down as in a moment, we call upon Thee, Who hast but to speak the word, and the plague shall be stayed. Pity us, O Lord, Who have so often and so grievously offended against Thee, and forsake us not utterly. Thou art showing us how frail we are, how ineffectual human skill, how

helpless the creature in the hands of his Maker. Pity and spare us, O our Father; comfort, as none but Thyself can comfort, those that mourn the loss of friends; alleviate the sufferings of those on whom Thy hand is now lying heavy; and let us, whom Thou hast hitherto preserved, possess our souls in patience and hope, trusting to the merits of our great Intercessor, Who liveth, and was dead, and is alive for evermore, and hath the keys of hell and of death. Amen.

## ON THE INDISPOSITION OF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

O Lord, Who hast been pleased to lay Thy hand upon a member of this family, and to remind us how uncertain is health and how frail is our tenure of every earthly blessing, overrule and sanctify this event for spiritual good, both to the object of our anxiety, and to us who with humility would acknowledge Thy hand in the dispensation. Restore health in Thy good time to the sufferer. Meanwhile, grant patience and meek submission under Thy mighty hand: may pain and weakness be sanctified as a blessing to the soul; and when the purposes of this trial are accomplished, may impressions remain which shall be to the praise of the glory of that grace, which, by means of present light affliction, prepares for Thy people an exceeding great and eternal weight of glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## FOR THE CHILDREN OF A FAMILY.

O Lord, Who hast said, 'I love them that love Me, and they that seek Me early shall find Me,' look down in fatherly compassion upon the children of this family. Open their hearts while tender to the truths of Thy most blessed Word; save them from the deceits of sin, the assaults of Satan, and the flattering but empty promises of an ensnaring world; and, with the simplicity of childlike faith, may they place themselves in Thy hands, to be guided through life by Thy counsel, and to be brought in Thine own good time to eternal glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## FOR THE SERVANTS OF A FAMILY.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, we commend to Thy special regard the servants of this household. We are all Thy servants, formed for Thyself to show forth Thy praise; and Thou acknowledgest as service done to Thee whatever is done in the name of Christ and in obedience to Thy will. May the servants in this family find that Thy service is perfect freedom; and, while showing all good fidelity in their respective places and employments, feel that they are serving a Master Who is no respecter of persons, but rewardeth every one according to his work. Amen.

## ON A BIRTHDAY.

O Lord, our Creator, Preserver, and most bountiful Benefactor, Who art reminding us, by the return of this day, of all the goodness we have experienced ever since the day of our birth, we thank and praise Thee for the life Thou gavest and still maintainest. How tenderly didst Thou watch over us in infancy, protect and guide us in youth, save us from the consequences of our folly and self-will, and direct, deliver, and provide for us in maturer age! None could have cared for us as Thou hast cared for us. To Thee, therefore, O our God, we would surrender all we have received, the being Thou hast given, the body, the soul, the spirit, which by so many ties Thou hast made Thine own. Accept our offering, strengthen our purposes, and blot from the book of Thy remembrance all the guilt of past ingratitude and provocation; and from this day may we date a new life, enter on a better being, and be as servants who wait for their Lord, awake to every call of duty, armed against all temptation, and prepared for every season of conflict and trial, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## BEFORE A BAPTISM.

Our Father, Which art in heaven, we commend to Thee the child who is this day to be devoted to Thee in baptism. Accept the parents' offering, and, with

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union which has this day been formed. Sanctify the union: may it be a union of principles as well as of affections; may it minister motives to obedience as well as means of enjoyment; may it resist the corroding effect of time, familiarity, and change; so that when the hour arrives that dissolves all mere earthly ties, it shall be found to be a union which even death cannot sever, absorbed in the higher and more blissful union of souls, made one in Christ Jesus, who shall live and reign with Him in His unchanging kingdom. Amen.

## AFTER A FUNERAL.

One generation cometh, and another goeth. We have been standing by the grave of one who lately, like ourselves, was alive to all the interests of time, but who is now far hence alone with God. We too must die. Prepare us for that change which may be so near. As pilgrims and strangers may we pass through a world which is so vain, and which in the end can afford us but a grave. O may we find our true life in Him Who is the Lord of life; our only security in the prospect of dying, in Him Who hath abolished death; our sole hope for eternity, in the work which He hath finished on the cross, and the unceasing intercession which He makes at Thy right hand in heaven. Blessed be God for His unspeakable gift: to us to live may it be Christ; for us to die may it be gain through Him; living or dying, may we be wholly His. Amen.

## BEFORE A JOURNEY.

O LORD, in all our ways we would acknowledge Thee; and now especially we would entreat Thy presence and blessing in the journey we are about to make. We cannot go from Thy presence. May we feel that we are near Thee wherever we may be, and that Thou art near to us, directing our steps and holding up our goings, preserving us from accident and danger, and making our way prosperous, so that in all our various intercourse with our fellow-men, the glory of Thy name and the honour of Thy Gospel may be advanced, and all may take knowledge of us that we are Thy people. Be with the friends whom we leave. Deliver us from anxieties on their account, and them from regret or alarm on ours. And let our faith and hope be ever in Thee. Amen.

## AFTER A JOURNEY.

O LORD, Thou hast led us out and brought us in in safety; our praise would be ever of Thee. We thank Thee for the blessings and security of home; and now that Thou hast permitted us to return to it in peace, we would remember all the way by which Thy Providence has led us; and seeing that Thou hast now, as so often before, kept our eyes from tears and our feet from falling, we would seek that our souls and the souls of others bound to us by so many ties may be

saved from death; that the life Thou hast preserved may be dedicated to Thee; that the friends to whom we have returned may find in us a double blessing; and that, living or dying, we and they may be wholly Thine, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ON A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY GOING ABROAD.

O LORD, Who orderest all our lot and settlest the bounds of our habitation, direct the way of him (or her) who is about to leave us for a distant land. Protect him in the midst of danger, and in the hour of temptation shield and establish him. Guard him against the attacks of deadly disease. In anxiety, perplexity, or fear, be Thou his guide, his counsellor, his friend; when sinners entice him, let him never consent; and when, at any time, his heart faileth and his foot slippeth, let Thy mercy hold him up. Gladden our hearts, from time to time, by assurances of his well-doing; and, if it be Thy will, restore him to us in health and peace, that we may again together praise Thee, with joyful lips, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## FOR TRAVELLERS AND SAILORS.

O LORD, Who compassest our path, and from Whose presence we cannot go, be with us in all places whither Thy Providence may lead us. In all our

ways we would acknowledge Thee; do Thou hold up our goings, and direct our steps.

Be with all who travel by land or sea, granting them guidance, protection, and the light of Thy favourable countenance. Especially, guard from danger such as are exposed to the perils of the deep. Thou measurest the waters in the hollow of Thy hand, and the stormy wind fulfils Thy pleasure. When the sea roars and is troubled, and men's hearts fail them for fear, be Thou a shelter by Thy power to those who have no help in man, and let the cry of weakness be turned into the prayer of faith, and come in with acceptance unto Thee into Thine holy temple. Amen.

THE END.

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